VOLUME 28, NO. 15

APRIL 3, 1998

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Richard Fennema-Beaudoin, 3, of Fenwick, smells a daffodil at Rice Road Greenhouse in Welland, March 28. The weekend saw many people come outdoors to enjoy warm temperatures and the sun shining.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

'Living lab' born at new campus

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

This living laboratory will bring Niagara College into the 21st century.

Niagara College's new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be "a living lab" for environmental and horticultural students.

The location of the campus, at the base of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment, is essential to the students and programs related to the horticultural, environmental and agricultural fields.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said this location was "selected to enhance and beautify the environment."

A series of wetlands wraps around the front of the campus, providing a natural foreground to the building. This wetland system acts as a storm water management facility, filtering surface runoff with vegetation such as bull rushes, meadows and sedges.

Two ponds, one at the main entrance and one at the northeast corner of the campus, detain water in case of flooding.

Included in this wetland system are permanent monitoring stations for checking water quality and quantity by students in the environmental programs.

"We are bringing this area, which was just a flat land, and making it into a living laboratory."

Patterson said he is "excited about our living lab" because the public will have a chance to buy plants from the students and see the progress for themselves.

Plant communities, such as a tall grass prairie and a wildflower meadow, will be created to educate students and the public.

"This is going to be a gateway to Niagara-on-the-Lake, an attractor."

Two sewage lagoons anchor the southeast part of the campus. Over the past 25 years, the lagoons have naturalized and become a haven for marsh birds, ducks and local wildlife.

Water levels will be easily manipulated and allow the Ecosystem Restoration program students to encourage various plant and animal communities, such as one involving a floating cattail nursery.

Patterson said he believes "we are enhancing the beauty of the environment. People are going to want to come to this location."

Eliminating funding deficit 'within striking distance'

College will try to meet challenges from province

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Funding, performance evaluations, new programming, tuition increases and capital improvements were highlighted in the March 24 President's Advisory Forum. Attendance at the informational meeting was sparse.

Niagara College's 1998-99 operating budget has been approved, Dan Patterson, Niagara College's president, announced.

"It's an opportunity to get advice," said Patterson, explaining the importance of his President's Advisory Forums. He said it's good to hear the different perspectives from within the institution.

The forum, held on March 24, focused on an extract of the college's budget. The presentation was given to an audience of staff and faculty by Hans van der Slagt, 55, of St. Catharines, the college's vice-president, administration.

For the past financial year, the college expected a surplus of $520,524 for the year ending March 31. This will bring the accumulated deficit to $174,709, which is "within striking distance" of getting rid of the deficit, said van der Slagt.

'It's an opportunity to get advice.'
— Dan Patterson

Revenue for the 1998-99 fiscal year is estimated to be $48,961,201 while expenses are estimated at $48,758,506.

The in-year 1998-99 budget surplus is expected to be $202,695. Van der Slagt said this will be sufficient to get rid of the accumulated deficit and leave a small surplus.

Turning to performance evaluation, the province has introduced a system to keep track of the 25 community colleges across Ontario. The system evaluates what are called Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

"It is an attempt, on the part of the province, to make college more accountable both individually and with the system," said van der Slagt.

The province's goal is to identify KPIs, and to say to the college community they are doing a good job or there are some areas they need to improve, he said.

The five methods by which the province will evaluate the college are these:

- The evaluation of programs by students attending the college.
- The evaluation of the college and its programs by graduates.
- The evaluation of the college by its employees.
- The attrition rate for students.
- The placement rate for graduates after graduation.

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NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Applicants to these post-graduate programs, which generally take about eight months to complete, require a college diploma, university degree, or relevant career experience.

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NIAGARA COLLEGE

Patterson says investing 'very critical'

Brand-new facility promises lifetime opportunity

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said he is ready for this 25-year vision of a fibre-optic building to finally happen.

The new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is set to open in September for 1,800 students starting the fall term.

"The investment that the college is making is very critical," said Patterson.

The campus meets the needs for horticulture, agribusiness, environment and integrated manufacturing.

Patterson said General Motors of Canada is a "wonderful example of a large employer that's very critical and was our responsibility to make sure we have a program or centre for integrated manufacturing and customized training."

He said this is an example of how Niagara continually relates to the world of work.

Time was spent on balancing enrolment at the new campus without making a hole in the population of Niagara's Welland campus or the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

"The way we positioned our three campuses was through a master planning process," Patterson said.

Programs such as Call Centre Management, Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film, Journalism-Print and Law and Security Administration programs will be staying at the Welland campus.

"We want to emphasize and try for a training centre for Law and Security Administration program students."

Patterson said he believes the numbers will continue to be healthy at the Welland campus.

About 60 per cent of the student population will be at the Welland campus, 30 per cent at the new Glendale campus, and 10 per cent will remain in Niagara Falls.

A popular program moving to the new campus is the post-graduate program in Ecosystem Restoration. Patterson said there aren't many jobs in the field, but it is an "extremely rewarding area and students are just lapping it up."

'This is the opportunity of a lifetime. We are so fortunate to have an opportunity for a brand-new facility. It's a dream come true.
—Dan Patterson

Other programs going to the new campus include the Horticultural Technician program, Environmental Technician program and the Turf Specialist program. Business programs moving to the campus will be Business Administration — Accounting, Human Relations, Business Administration — Marketing and Business Administration — Operations Management.

It has been a long time since a college or university in Ontario has been able to offer this type of change, said Patterson.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," said Patterson. "We are so fortunate to have an opportunity for a brand-new facility. It's a dream come true."

Patterson said his only concern is students and staff aren't clear on the master plan of the college.

It is a challenge trying to build and communicate at the same time, he said.

"People have to be careful not to be too critical if they haven't taken the opportunity to find out for themselves."

Patterson said he understands a student's busy schedule and knows communication will always be an issue for a large institution like Niagara.

The college is looking into offering an open-line for students and staff or anyone wanting to know more about the new construction or other problems with Niagara.

Patterson said he recommends taking the time for a short tour.

"It's all about seeing a legacy and going back 25 years later to see the change."

A student residence is not planned for the September opening, but may be something to look forward to in the future, or in "phase two."

Included in the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus will be a gymnasium, cafeteria and campus store. Every classroom will have the potential to be wired for access to the college's computer systems. A fibre-optic, digital backbone will connect classrooms, labs, the learning resources centre and offices.

A 240-seat alumni hall will be available for lectures and college presentations and for use by the community.

Patterson said it doesn't matter where the programs are held because he makes sure the "curriculum is current and relates to the world of work."

"A lot of people finish their bachelor of arts degrees and say they've learned a lot, but not in the meaning of a focus, and (they) find that coming to college."

Patterson said he believes the Glendale campus will continue this reputation and show itself to be a "dynamic infrastructure placed in the 21st century."

New programs improve service

(Continued from page 1)

Van der Slagt said the province has made it clear the college will be evaluated under these areas for the 1998-99 year. Although they are not sure, van der Slagt said, this evaluation process could affect the college's funding by as much as 10 per cent.

Niagara will meet the criteria set by the province.

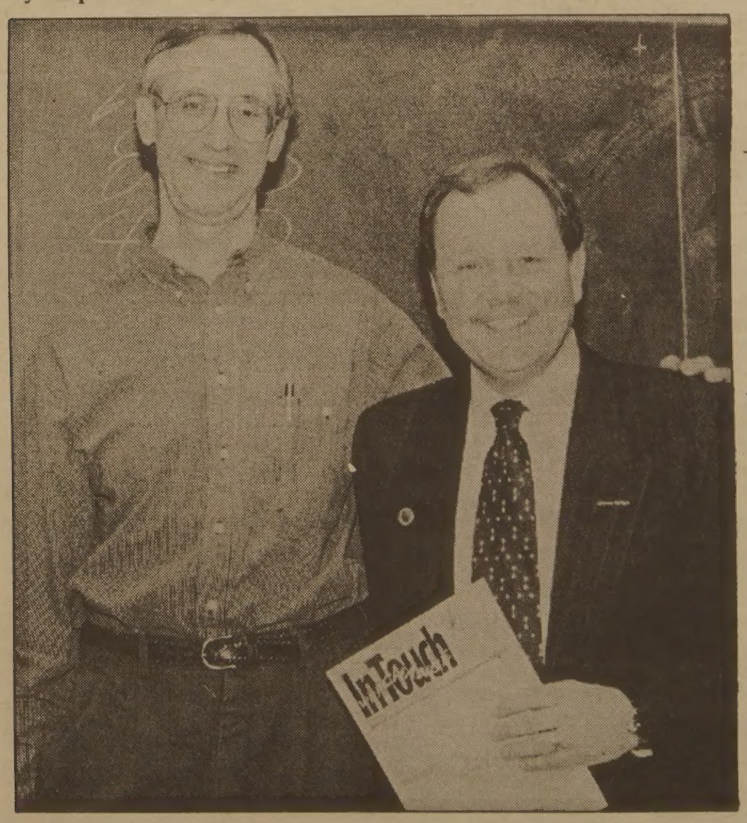
The college is also working to establish partnerships with other organizations, such as the Niagara Regional Police Service and Brock University in St. Catharines.

"By working together we are hoping to provide a better service and a better program at a reduced cost," said van der Slagt.

Improving service will be addressed on several fronts. The first is the introduction of new programs.

Among these are programs in screenwriting and in welding. A Landscape Technician program and an Environmental Field/Lab Technician program will be added, as will be a post-graduate program in Micro-Electronics Manufacturing, to be located at the Welland campus following facility renovations.

The college will introduce a Police Foundations program in September to prepare recruits for police service.



At left, Hans van der Slagt, vice-president, administration, and Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, presented an outline of the 1998-99 operating budget on March 24 at the President's Advisory Forum.

Photo by Sean Coffey

'By working together we are hoping to provide a better service and a better program at a reduced cost.'
— Hans van der Slagt

A new Centre for Integrated Manufacturing Training and Applied Research will be established at the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A student/customer service centre is planned for the main entrance of the Welland campus. It will be staffed by Enrolment and Registration Services.

Some renovations are to be made to parking facilities at the Welland campus. The traffic and parking entrance off First Avenue will be realigned to relieve congestion and safety concerns.

He said it comes "full circle. . . . We are here to ensure that we have the right programs and services that meet the needs of our students."

GM welcomes new campus

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Despite some concerns, the construction and September opening of Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus is welcome news to its neighbors.

About 20 surveys were filled out in early February by Glendale Avenue General Motors (GM) employees. The survey asked questions about the new campus and its contents.

The four-question survey was done by the *Niagara News* to give the community a clear idea of how much people know and how they feel about what's going on during construction at the campus.

The questions were about their knowledge of the campus, potential problems with traffic, their overall feeling about the campus, and any other questions they may have.

Although 94 per cent of workers said they knew "very little" about the Glendale campus, 82 per cent said they had a "positive overall feeling" about the construction.

"It's a good thing," said Louis Sider, 44, of St. Catharines, a supplier quality analyst.

"A lot more people at GM are taking night courses to expand their knowledge. Hopefully, the college will offer that."

Sider was one voice in the 20 who completed the survey along with superintendents, supervisors, skill trade workers and general assemblers.

Sider said his only concern is that there is "very little" or "no information" around GM about the new campus, set to open in September.

"All we know is that it's going to be there."

Questions of workers ranged from "courses being offered" to "special features of the campus" and the possibility of a student residence.

"I've been seeing the possibility of White Oaks expanding big and think they might offer some type of residence for students," said Sider.

"GM will hopefully use this (new campus) for a lot of their training, as much as, or more than they are using Niagara College now."

Dan Patterson, Niagara College's president, said the plan of the new college had been "on again and off again" and he has been "hesitant to get out in the broader community" to educate others about the campus.

Once the approval was set, Patterson said he has been working "very hard to get out to the community."

"We haven't forgotten about General Motors, our neighbor."

Patterson said an orientation for GM workers is being planned in the near future.

German student explores across Canada

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

He's been here for two months but he's gained a lifetime of memories.

Tobias Haumer, 21, of Weyerbusch, Germany has been in Canada for eleven weeks and is now "going home."

Haumer came to Canada from Germany to improve his English and came to Niagara College for practical training.

"Practical training is demanded in Germany if you want to apply to university."

Haumer didn't just travel to Welland. He made the most of his Can Rail Pass and the 12 days of free travel it offered.

An organized trip was planned to Ottawa to learn about the capital city. Next, Haumer took his break week to take a train to the West Coast. He spent 10 days there after traveling from Toronto to Vancouver.

This gave Haumer a "good impression of the size of Canada." With his nose to the window, he said he enjoyed watching "trees, trees and trees."

TOBIAS HAUMER

"Canada has very beautiful landscape," Haumer said, and joked that he discovered "many Kodak moments."

In Germany, he said, you could never find a good piece of land that is untouched. Germany has a population of 81 million and is one-third the size of Ontario.

Haumer said he never got homesick during his time away from home. He said because of "so many thrilling experiences," he never had the time to be.

Even though he only spoke to his parents once a week and is an only child, he said he could "easily stay another year."

On March 17, Haumer returned from the East Coast, where he visited Halifax, Montreal and Toronto for six days in total.

"I have lost my feeling for time now," he said.

While at Niagara College, Haumer was introduced to Auto CAD and other lab equipment, as well as the Internet and e-mail.

College itself is new to him because college doesn't exist in Germany. Students there finish high school and go straight to university or start to work.

"Germany doesn't have any older people learning either," said Haumer.

One thing that impressed him was the "multicultural feeling here at the college."

Haumer didn't find out about Niagara immediately. He spent a year looking for a placement to do practical training. His neighbor, in Germany, did a year of high school here as an exchange student. Haumer faxed the man that hosted his friend and had an answer almost immediately.

Two weeks later Haumer found himself in Welland at Niagara College, doing practical training at no cost.

"I guess it's all about taking and giving," he said, "and they gave me a free sweatshirt."

The biggest thing Haumer learned in Canada was the language. In Germany they are taught English at school as their first foreign language and have a choice of Latin, French or Russian for their second.

"It's not heard on the streets but almost everyone can speak English, especially the younger generation."

As a "close-to-nature person," Haumer said he loved Canada and what it had to offer. He will have to go back and change his way of thinking again since he has been "thinking in English lately."

Haumer said, "everything in Canada is very lush and very full. Canada changed my definition of distance, emptiness, and liberty."

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Broadcasting

Film students create their own Destiny

Comedic Destiny fateful

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Seven of Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program students are close to completing of their comedic **Destiny** documentary.

Phil Pattison, 23, of Hamilton, the documentary producer; Jamie Vallely, 23, of Hamilton, camera assistant; Lou Iveges, 34, of Tilsonburg, director; Matt Larkin, 22, of Ridgetown, cameraman; Sam Osborne, 22, of Belleville, director of photography; Jim Macdonald, 31, of Welland, sound person; and editor Heather Brunton, 20, of Gravenhurst, Ont., are third-year BRTF students at the college's Welland campus.

The **Destiny** documentary, which they started in January, is in the editing stage and close to completion.

The documentary follows a comedian who has worked his way up the industry's ladder, and other comics, stars, and owners of chain comedy clubs, such as Yuk Yuk's and Second City.

The documentary cost the students between $500 and $600 in travelling expenses and accommodations. The money for **Destiny** came from selling hotdogs at the college, a film festival held here last November and from the students themselves.

The main focus of **Destiny** is Shawn Majumder, 25, of Newfoundland, a talented-young comedian who plays Ed on **Brainwash**, a YTV-produced weekly special.

Majumder is a comedian who has performed throughout Canada at clubs (such as Yuk Yuk's and Second City) as well as college and university pubs.

Living in Toronto, Majumder is constantly busy with TV show auditions, preparations and rehearsals for new comedic acts.

Iveges was in charge of keeping in contact with Majumder and best describes him as having "a charismatic personality."

"I chose to do stand-up comedy because it makes people laugh," says Iveges. "It makes people take the time to think about something other than the more serious everyday life issues. It takes us away from harsh reality."

Iveges and the college crew have followed Majumder since January in an attempt to explain his life.

"If we were given more time and money we would have been able to go more in depth with the comedic industry, but I feel we captured the essence," says Iveges. "If you have more time, the art of a documentary is allowed to occur. It is about everyday life."

Iveges says he wants to be able to tell stories, write, become part of the industry and eventually work his way up to director or owner.

"We met a lot of the behind-the-scenes people, like program jockies and the crew of YTV, which is a very good starting ground," he says.

"Our documentary shows what people have to do to sustain and be in the industry," says Iveges.

Majumder's present schedule was "very fortunate" for the crew because he performed in more than just Toronto's Comedy Festival. He had shows in Ottawa and Los Angeles, he had his TV show on YTV and he came to Niagara College.

"We chose Majumder because he is someone who has started from the bottom and worked his way up, and his schedule was a perfect reflection of his busy life," says Pattison, who was in charge of locations, security, permission, organization and talking to the owners of the clubs.

"I found the documentary a good choice because I think everyone enjoys stand-up comedy," says Pattison.

Pattison and some of his classmates are the creators of Reel Bent Production, which is currently being incorporated.

Pattison says he is "very excited" about his future and is determined to own a film production agency.

"In film I can express artistic freedom. I want to be the one in control and I don't like people telling me what to do," says Pattison.

He says "the best way to get things done is to do it yourself."

During the making of **Destiny,** the crew was able to network with people in the industry and it gave them the experience of working with other professional TV crews.

Entering the film industry is not only an occupation but a lifestyle, says Pattison.

"The best compliment I have ever received was when our crew was mistaken as a professional crew," says Pattison. "I feel we represented Niagara College very professionally."

The documentary was perfectly timed because a comedy festival in Toronto allowed the crew to be involved with not only Majumder, but other people who added to and complemented their documentary.

One of Pattison's friends, Jay Rouse, of Hamilton, was part of **Destiny**. During the comedy festival, Rouse received an award as Canada's best upcoming comedian. Rouse is working on the lead role for the film called **Whipping Boy** by Allan Fox.

The **Destiny** crew's biggest interview was with Mark Breslin, owner of the Yuk Yuk's comedy chain.

As well, Pattison was given the opportunity to meet porn king Ron Jeremy, who has done more than 1,500 X-rated films and was hosting the comedy festival.

The title **Destiny** is just the working title and will be changed by the completion of the documentary. **Destiny** was chose in the beginning because, Iveges says, he thought it was equal to "fate," because Majumder was following his destiny and the crew of the documentary were following theirs too.

The third-year BRTF students have been working on a 20-minute drama skit, which they hope to enter in the Telefest film awards for universities and colleges in Ontario. If their drama skit is selected, they will win free broadcasting of the film on TVO.

The members of the **Destiny** crew say they are excited about their chance to start their future in one of the busiest periods the *TV/film industry has experienced.*

Long hours, lots of work, creativity keep BRTF students happy, committed

By JANET NEWMAN
Staff Writer

Broadcasting is clearly where the excitement is.

Six students of Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program agree they are "very happy" about where they are today.

> ***'It's not like it's taking up your time. It's just a part of your life now.' — Mark Blimke, BRTF***

Second-year BRTF student Kevin Dragomautz, 21, of Hamilton, said he has an eagerness for his program.

"I have never been happier with a choice that I have made," he said. "Since I have been here, I love school. It's still school, but at the same time it's too much fun. It's not supposed to be this fun."

How can school be fun?

First-year student Lisa Bateman, 19, of Barrie, said she likes the program.

"I think it's awesome. I love the people in my program, and we work really well together, and have a good time."

Bateman said in first-year, students are fortunate to be able to take a bit of everything — radio, television, film, presentation and production — "because you get a broad base on it all, and then you can really decide what area to get into for next year."

First-year student Tara Bartley, 19, of Blind River, Ont., said the program is even more than she expected.

"I didn't realize there were so many things, because here you do everything," she said. "In TV, we write the scripts, build the sets, set up the lighting and do all the camera work. And in radio, we run the campus station every day from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., making commercials, promotions for the station and public announcements. I like it a lot."

Though the program is time consuming, often running into some long hours, the students said it's all part of the fun.

"It's not like it's taking up your time. It's just a part of your life now," said Mark Blimke, 20, of Pickering, a second-year BRTF student. "You're out meeting people, talking to people, doing stuff you like."

Dragomautz said he "loves" the long hours.

"I just see it as more education for our money. It keeps me busy, and I like it a lot more that way."

Both said it is a lot of work, but neither could imagine doing anything else.

Second-year BRTF program student Mike Gilman, 23, of Ottawa, said the best part of the program is the amount of hands-on experience they are given, actually being able "to go out there and do it."

"We really do the out-of-classroom stuff. We honestly learn professionalism," he said.

The students said they think it's "cool" the program lets them express their own creativity, and allows them to get crazy and nutty sometimes.

"In broadcasting we have the opportunity to be creative," Blimke said. "As students, we're allowed to walk on the edge, and if we fall over, we have the chance to get back up again. You're supposed to screw up. How else are you going to learn?"

Second-year BRTF program student Rob Falconer, 21, of Kitchener, said he agrees, "There's definitely an amount of yourself that you get to bring out in a lot of the work we do. A lot of our assignments we really get to put out personalities into it."

All six are progressing at different levels in each part of their program, but all said they agree creativity, openness and being able to work well and communicate with others play a big role in the success of any stage in the program.

"In life you're going to work with people you like and people you don't like, so you have to get used to it and concentrate on the professionalism," said Falconer. "You're working together for a common goal to get something done to the best of your ability, so put your personal opinions aside, and just work for it."

The group said they recommend the BRTF program to anyone who is a hard worker, has a creative edge and is not afraid of commitment and dedication.

Six SAC positions acclaimed

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

It's Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) election time.

Six positions were acclaimed.

The Welland campus SAC president is Amanda Cheevers.

The post of vice-president of campus affairs and campus events is vacant. An appointment is expected soon.

Jennifer McGregor is the Glendale campus president. The new Niagara-on-the-Lake campus will open in September.

The vice-president of campus events at Glendale is Michael Berry.

Christine Andrew and Averett Wright are running for vice-president of campus affairs at the Glendale campus. Voting will take place April 16 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Rachel Salomons is the new SAC president of the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

The vice-president of campus events at the Maid of the Mist is Mike Chorney. Vice-president of campus affairs is Kevin Fochuk.

The Maid of the Mist voting will be held Thurday, April 9 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Alumni

Niagara's high profile successful alumni

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

As the old saying goes, "Don't judge a book by its cover."

Beneath the brown-brick exterior of Niagara College lie several stories of success. Since Niagara College's opening in 1967, several notables have travelled its halls, learned in its classrooms, and graduated from its programs.

Anne Mroczkowski, 45, of Toronto, graduated from the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program in 1975. She landed her first job at CKPG radio in Prince George, B.C., as a news copywriter before becoming the 6 p.m. news anchor for CITY-TV in Toronto.

She says after coasting through university, where she completed three out of four years in the Journalism program at Carleton University in Ottawa, Niagara was a refreshing change.

"Niagara was less challenging academically and more challenging on a hands-on level. I had to work hard."

Another successful graduate has been referred to as "a rebel" within the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) caucus, says the *Socialist Action* newspaper in St. Catharines.

Peter Kormos, 45, of Welland, graduated with a Social Services diploma in 1975.

"Niagara College whetted my appetite for law," said Kormos. He then attended Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto in 1978 after receiving his bachelor's degree from York University in Toronto.

PETER KORMOS

Kormos says Niagara College was "instrumental" in taking him where he is now.

He recalls when he was 16 being expelled from the secondary school system for his "rebellious nature," which didn't allow him to further his education. After admittance here, Kormos says, "Niagara College had a significant impact on my career." Kormos was elected to Welland city council in 1985, before he became the member of provincial parliament for Welland/Thorold in 1988.

Before taking her post as the Niagara Region's first female chair in December 1997, Debbie Zimmerman, of Grimsby, taught municipal finance at the college in 1992.

'I loved it at Niagara. I had excellent teachers.' — Debbie Zimmerman

"I loved it at Niagara. I had excellent teachers."

Zimmerman says Niagara has played a large part in her being where she is today. She graduated from the Journalism-Print program in 1975.

ECE program gives graduate advantages

Understanding how children think, act, feel

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Drying tears, tying shoes and reading stories are all in a day's work for a Niagara graduate.

Ryan Turner, 22, of St. Catharines, graduated from the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in June 1997.

The ECE program takes two years and includes classes dealing with child development and practical field experience.

Turner said he was able to get "hands-on" interaction with the children three to five times a week. The rest of his time was spent working on projects and child observation assignments.

Turner said the program provided him with many advantages in understanding how children think, act and feel.

"This program gave me the self-confidence I needed for myself and when I'm around kids."

Turner said the only disadvantage he felt the program had was the heavy workload of field work and assignments.

"It's not that I didn't want to work hard. It's just sometimes it got a little hectic."

About Niagara, Turner said, "It's a great school. I made a lot of good friends and I felt accepted and comfortable."

'It's not that I didn't want to work hard. It's just sometimes it got a little hectic.' — Ryan Turner

This past summer, Turner sent out resumes to many local day-care centres. He didn't persist in his search for a job because of two other jobs he was working at the time.

"I needed some time to clear my head and decide what I really wanted to do."

Turner said he has decided to attend Brock University in St. Catharines in the fall and will take a double major in child studies and child psychology.

He said Niagara gave him a base to start from and he wants to advance his studies on a more in-depth level. After his education is finished, Turner wants to become a teacher or a child psychologist.

Asked why he originally chose the ECE program, Turner said it had to do with his high school co-op placement.

"I volunteered at a day care and loved the idea of working with kids."

Turner said at first people didn't take him seriously about his decision because of the stereotype associated with the ECE program.

He said people think women should be the ones interested in working with children because they are naturally inclined to nurture children.

"That stereotype is totally wrong. I know I work great with kids."

Turner graduated with the highest marks in his class and said that proves he takes his work seriously.

In his days at Niagara, Turner said he made so many memories he couldn't pick just one to discuss.

"The one thing I'll never forget is knowing I was able to impact kids in a positive way."

Graduate focuses on management of eatery

Manager works as hard for her staff as they do for her

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

A Niagara College graduate is the manager of a popular Welland restaurant.

Lori Flaxy, 31, of St. Catharines, is a graduate, with honors, of the Journalism-Print program.

She is a general manager at M.T. Bellies Tap and Grillhouse in Welland. She is responsible for scheduling, hiring/firing, disciplining, personnel matters and assisting in payroll.

Recalling her days at Niagara, Flaxy says she had "fantastic teachers" and a lot of "support and friends" at the college.

"I went into journalism for public relations. I really enjoyed it, (and I'm) really glad I did it."

She starting working at the *St. Catharines Standard* at 17 years old. She says she worked in the circulation department, as an editorial receptionist and a night beat reporter.

Journalism is sometimes a negative environment, says Flaxy, adding covering the murder of a child was the worst experience she had as a journalist. She says trying to get information from the neighbors of the murdered child was intrusive.

"I didn't like the intrusiveness of it. I felt, in a lot of respects, it isn't your place, but as a reporter working for a newspaper, it is."

Flaxy was 19 years old when she was a night beat reporter.

"It was hard to check facts after everybody has gone home," says Flaxy, adding it was hard working all night for a 6 p.m. deadline.

"You have to be on the job 24 hours a day and you have to really want it regardless.

"I enjoyed meeting people as a journalist as well, but a lot (of people) didn't want to talk to me."

The Holiday Inn, in Welland, is where she started in management, she says. She was a restaurant/bar manager and hotel manager for three years.

"My main focus is management. That is what I really enjoy doing."

She says she works more than 40 hours a week, day and night.

Her philosophy, she says, has always been "to work as hard for the staff as they work for me."

M.T. Bellies is a restaurant specializing in big parties. She says she enjoys being busy. "I enjoy the pressure of the restaurant industry as opposed to the journalism."

She says the restaurant is a "positive environment."

"I really like the customers, taking care of our guests and exceeding their expectations."

Riding horses at her friend's farm in Effingham, Ont., is her biggest stress reliever, she says, adding she has been riding for as long as she can remember. She has owned 17 horses including her horse Brooks, which she's had for 17 years.

"It is the greatest therapy."

Lori Flaxy, 31, of St. Catharines, a graduate of Niagara College, is the general manager at M.T. Bellies.

Photo by Amy Kaal

Possibility of Campus Store being privatized

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Welland campus store is facing the possibility of having its services contracted to a private company.

"It's just good prudent business sense to take a look at what's out there," said Sandy Fox, 47, of Welland, the college's manager of ancillary services.

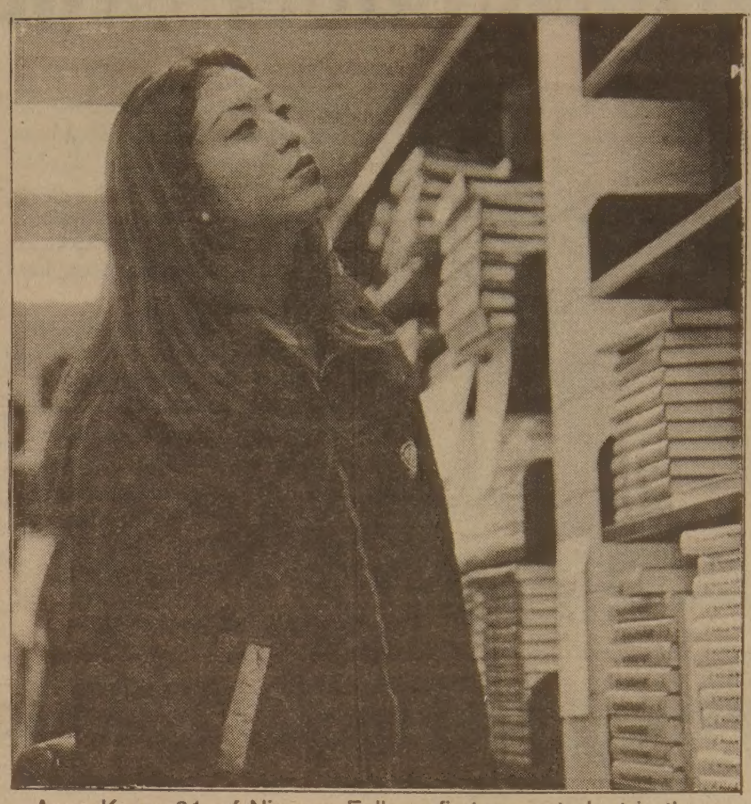
Fox said no decision has been made. The college is just "looking at its options," she said.

"What we are looking to do is find the best way possible to serve our customers and be financially viable."

The college has asked for proposals from private companies. They will be evaluated and compared to the present operation, said Fox.

"We may decide that it is more beneficial, and more financially viable, for us to continue to operate our own store."

The college's needs are a factor in this decision," she said, adding the college needs furniture and fixtures for the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake as well as the latest technology required to operate two campus stores simultaneously. The Glendale campus store is to open on Sept. 1.



Anna Kang, 21, of Niagara Falls, a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program, surveys the book shelves at the Welland campus store.

Photo by Sean Coffey

As for the staff, Fox said, "If, for some reason, we decide that it would be better to go with a contract operator, the staff would have a choice of going with the contract operator at their comparable salaries and benefits, or they could stay as college employees and bump into another position."

Fox said the staff is concerned about the possible change. If the decision is made to go private, they must decide what is best for them.

"It's not like their jobs are being taken away. There are jobs for these individuals."

Marilyn Hynes, of Port Dalhousie, manager of the campus store, said she thinks there are some advantages and disadvantages to privatization.

"I think it would be wonderful to have the technology that hopefully a big company could provide," said Hynes, adding to redo the campus store would be a real asset.

As far as staffing is concerned, she said it's premature to think about any changes because they don't know what the proposals will be.

"A staff is always concerned about change. We have three long-term employees here that have many, many years of service to the college."

Yvonne Michaud, 55, of Welland, is a full-time buyer/expediter at the campus store, and is one of three long-term college employees Hynes spoke of.

"I feel kind of disappointed," said Michaud.

"The campus store has always more than paid its own way. In fact, it has given a lot of money to the college for other operating areas."

Michaud said she can understand the college's viewpoint, but she can't help thinking of her own situation.

"It's not going to be the same, it really won't, simply because we've all known each other for so long.

"If we are taken over it is going to start the bumping process again, which is going to hurt somebody else. I feel uncomfortable about that. I don't particularly like the bumping process."

Long-time employee has diverse experience

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

She's had a litetime of memories, but her future's in "mid-air."

Yvonne Michaud, 55, of Manchester, England, is a full-time buyer/expediter for the Niagara College Campus Store at the Welland campus.

After graduating from St. John's Business College in Manchester, England, Michaud worked at the Manchester Town Hall for the North Western Gas Board as an account assessor for four years.

In 1962, she says "curiosity" brought her to Canada where she lived in Toronto with her husband. There Michaud found work as a secretary to the director of the Toronto YMCA.

Michaud says she quit a year later because "it wasn't challenging anymore."

She went to work for Bourne Mills of Canada "as a secretary and Jill-of-all-trades."

She later quit and went to work for Superior Concrete in Rexdale, Ont., as a secretary to the president and assistant to the comptroller.

In 1974, Michaud moved to St. Catharines and began her 25 years working for the college in the plant and property department at the St. Catharines campus.

Michaud then went to work for the registrar's office, followed by a position in the physical resource department for about 18 years.

"I enjoyed that (job) because I didn't sit at a desk."

Michaud says she kept a record of "what went right and wrong" with the campus. If there was a problem, people would telephone her first and then she would make more calls to take care of it.

Michaud says "it was interesting," but it eventually "became redundant."

She then started working in the shipping and receiving department.

In June 1996 she was informed her position "had become redundant," she says, adding her job was divided and "farmed out elsewhere." Then she was offered her present position.

"I was very resentful at first," says Michaud, explaining her hours were cut from 40 to 35 hours a week, which meant less pay.

"I wasn't happy."

Michaud says for the 1 1/2 years she's been ordering books for the Campus Store she has "learned a lot."

She says her position "is a more restricted movement position" than her previous ones.

"I very seldom had to consult with anybody. Now it's a daily contact with my supervisor."

Michaud says she dislikes the fact they have to "do everything manually."

"We're not operating at the 1998 level. We're 20 years behind. If we were more streamlined, we would be more efficient."

She says she enjoys getting her work done. "When I have stacks of stuff on my desk, I like it gone."

Michaud says the future of the Campus Store "is hanging in mid-air," with the possibility of privatization. "I hope a way will be found for us to continue, get ourselves up to speed and avoid being taken over."

Students petition for rebate at residence

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

A first-year Niagara College student is fighting for others in seeking a rebate from the operator of the student residence.

Jenean Todd, 20, of Lucknow, Ont., a first-year student in the Business Administration program,

'we were cheated'
—Jenean Todd

has started a petition in hopes of getting some money back from the Campus Living Centres (CLC), the firm which operates the residence.

"A lot of people were complaining about the things that weren't here (in the residence)," said Todd.

Those things include a stove in every room, free e-mail services and large-screen televisions in the common areas.

"We didn't have laundry facilities for the first two weeks we were here."

A photocopier and fax services weren't available when the residence opened in September, although these services are available now.

Todd said she was tired of everyone complaining and decided to do something about it.

She said she decided to write a letter to the CLC. The letter states the reasons the students should get money back. The main one, Todd said, is because "we were cheated."

Todd got the information on what was supposed to be in the residence from the brochures each potential resident was sent.

"I just took quotes right out of it of what was supposed to be here and wasn't," said Todd.

'We didn't have laundry facilities for the first two weeks we were here.'
— Jenean Todd

As of March 8, Todd has 113 signatures on her petition, but is quick to add she still has to approach some people with it.

Only four people have declined to sign the petition, she said.

Todd will be sending one copy of the letter, with signatures, to Derek Wills, residence manager, and one to the CLC.

"Right now all we have is the CLC's fax number. I've been on the Internet and that's the only way to contact them. We need to get an address," said Todd.

It should be noted that up to this point the CLC and Wills aren't aware of the petition, as it isn't completed.

Todd is asking for $400 back or "one month's rent" for each student living in the residence. She said the hope is the petition will be completed and to the proper people by late March.

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Wilderness

Wilderness trip 'a learning experience'

Northern-style fun

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

These Niagara College students went deep into the wilds of Northern Ontario for spring break.

Twenty students spent their eight-day February break in the wilderness to earn their general education elective credits.

Valerie Grabove, 49, of Fenwick, is a professor in Foundation Studies. Grabove, on sabbatical for the 1997-98 school year, was the professor for the Winter Wilderness Adventure program.

Scott Stewart, 21, of Guelph, a second-year Recreational and Leisure Services program student, assisted Grabove for the week for his independent project.

Stewart says he learned during the week that it's important for aboriginals to pass on their stories from older to younger generations.

"I think that's what Valerie did for me, by allowing a young person like myself to come on the trip," he says.

The group left on Feb. 21 and travelled to Temagami, Ont., to stay at Smoothwater Outfitters, a wilderness lodge, for two nights. Francis Boyes and Caryn Colman are the owners of Smoothwater Outfitters.

During their stay at the lodge, the students experienced a variety of activities such as listening to owl calls, snowshoeing in the wilderness, dogsledding and learning about old-growth forests.

Brian Moulder, a former ministry of natural resources employee, and Boyes talked to the students about Temagami issues related to the environment, such as old-growth forests, fishing, water masses and logging roads.

Virginia McKenzie, of Bear Island, Lake Temagami, was another guest speaker. McKenzie spoke to the students about native spirituality. She told stories, some of which originated from the Temagami area.

On the third day, the group left for La Sarre, Que. and stayed at Motel Le Bivouac for one night.

From La Sarre, the trip continued north back into Ontario on a logging road past St. Lambert, Que.

The students snowshoed, walked or skied for 16 kilometres to Patten River Camp to meet Robert Stitt, 48, of Patten River, Ont.

Stitt, owner of the camp, lives and traps at his camp during the fall, winter and spring. He showed the students some pelts and snares and explained his life as a trapper.

Stitt skinned a beaver to demonstrate to the students part of his work.

"I thought I would see blood squirting everywhere; however, it wasn't the case. It was interesting to see," says Kelly Lanthier, 21, a second-year Recreation and Leisure Services program student of Niagara Falls.

The students built a snowshelter called a quinje. Later some students slept in the quinje.

Kim Wood, 20, of Lindsay, Ont., says the quinje was bigger than what she thought it was. Wood, a second-year Horticultural Technician program student, says, "We were four but could have fit in six or seven."

After the three-day stay at the camp, the group trekked the 16 kilometres trail again to leave Patten River Camp.

"Each day had a learning experience," says second-year Law and Security Administration program student Dan Magwood, 22, of Niagara Falls. "I felt that Robert helped each person realize how northern life really affected one person's perception on life."

The group returned to Smoothwater Outfitters for the last night. Colman prepared a theme dinner for the group. The dinner included trapper's bread, salad, French Canadian tortiere, baked beans and maple syrup tarts for dessert.

The trip ended on Feb. 28, when the students returned to St. Catharines and Welland.

The course isn't finished yet. Students met twice before the trip and met again on March 19 for a pot luck dinner at Grabove's home.

Students had to submit a daily journal reflecting on activities during the week.

"I think my goals were met. I did a pre- and a post-survey that showed the growth of the group members," says Stewart.

Students of the Winter Wilderness Adventure program take a last group photo on the morning of Feb. 28. The photo was taken at Smoothwater Outfitters in Temagami before the students returned home to Welland and St. Catharines.

Contributed photo

Robert Stitt, 48, owner of Patten River Camp, demonstrates to students how he skins a beaver.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Good luck to all Journalism-Print program *Year Two students on field placement* this month. You've got what it takes!

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Editorial

Niagara News

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We can't afford monarchy

It's time for Canadians to grow up and break the bonds of adolescence.

After 130 years, Canada has reached the point where it should shed its royal weight and grow into a leaner more efficiently run sovereign state.

Canadians have been forking over millions in hard-earned tax dollars every year to pay for the honor of having a "Constitutional Monarchy."

The extravagant income and plush lifestyles of our Governor General and 10 lieutenant-governors is costing Canadians millions — and for what? So they can put a fancy signature on a piece of paper to make it legal.

Canada does not need the monarchy to grant approval to our laws, even if that approval is just a formality.

Indeed, we should be following Australia's example in proving our sovereignty and establishing our own republic. It is not just a money issue, but the fact Canada needs to establish its own identity as a nation of people.

This does not mean we should forget our history.

Most Canadians are proud of our association to the crown, so to remove it completely would be unacceptable. However, with fiscal restraints placing a tight strain on Canada's spending limits, the Governor General and the 10 lieutenant-governors who represent the monarchy in Canada are one luxury we can't afford.

Sean Coffey

Each of us to judge Clinton

How many allegations are left to deny?

Kathleen Willey, the former White House volunteer, accused U.S. President Bill Clinton of making a sexual advance outside the Oval Office when she had made a plea for employment help.

She was interviewed on CBS-TV'S *60 Minutes* on March 15.

She remains the one woman who has testified, under oath, to a sexual encounter with the president in the White House.

However, Clinton has denied that he engaged in any improper sexual activity with Willey or former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Some might say this issue has nothing to do with us when it comes to his privacy.

There are a couple of points we still have to consider.

First, he may have lied under oath.

Second, there may be other women who come forward with other sexual complaints against Clinton.

In addition, he may have attempted to turn the public's attention to the crisis in Iraq to avoid his troubled situation.

It's up to each of us to judge him whether he is a good leader or not.

Mun-Hee Shin

Rookies take over

It's time for a change.

After six months and 14 newspapers, the *Niagara News* is undergoing personnel changes.

The Journalism-Print program's second-year students are gone.

Their tenure at the college is ending with a one-month field placement throughout the province at various publications, including community and daily newspapers, and at Maclean-Hunter in Toronto, public relations firms and photography studios. One student is working for a St. Catharines MPP at his Queen's Park office.

The program's first-year students are in charge with three new editors.

The class did the reporting, writing, editing, photography and layout and design of this edition.

Their second and final edition of the *Niagara News* will be published Friday, April 17.

Correction

In the Niagara News edition of Friday, March 20, there were errors of fact in the report on the Change the Future Program fashion show.

In the event, 35 models participated. Four were from Brock University in St. Catharines and 31 from Niagara College. In attendance were 350 people.

Stage direction for the show was by Nicole Nijar.

Blake's provided only tuxedos for the show. Donating hair styling services was Soul Creations, in addition to those mentioned in the article.

Co-ordinator Gerald Dixon, 24, a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering program student, said Front 54 was "extremely helpful" in providing the facilities free of cost as well as lunch and dinner for all crew members and the models at the rehearsals held at Front 54.

This is the first year the fashion show has been held, but organizers are already beginning plans for next year, Dixon said.

A financial loan of $1,100 from Niagara College's Student Administrative Council has been repaid, Dixon said. The remaining proceeds, about $500, are being donated to Women's Place.

In the March 20, 1998, Vol. 28, No. 14 issue of the *Niagara News*, in the Riding the Riff II supplement, the picture placed with the Sure Shot band interview was not Sure Shot.

The band members, left, Bill Raven, 23, Mike Tousignant, 23, and Clinton Jeffrey, 25, pose outside *the Simcoe building.*

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A paycheque can make a difference

By SARA De TAMBLE
Staff Writer

When I was a little girl I used to play grocery store.

My little friends and I would pull all the food out of our parents' cupboards and arrange it on the kitchen counters just like a real store.

Then we'd add up all the imaginary prices with a calculator, put the food in bags and go on to play Barbies, or house, or some other game that could occupy our imaginations for the rest of the day.

I liked playing grocery store, but ironically, when I got to be 15 and needed a part-time job, guess where I ended up working? In a real grocery store.

I like working there, even though I don't think it's nearly as much fun as my pretend grocery store used to be. Now I have bosses who tell me when I have to play grocery store. I can't stop playing just because I'm tired, or bored, or I want to play with Barbies.

One of the main differences I've noticed between my pretend store and the real one is the customers. Why did none of my friends ever want to "see the manager?"

If I rang their toilet paper in at $3.49 my friends said OK and paid me with Monopoly money. None of them ever argued it should be $2.99, or yelled at me for not being "smiley enough."

My friends never wanted double bags, or complained because the mushroom gravy they bought didn't have enough mushrooms in it.

In my pretend grocery store, when I said, "Hi, how are you?", my little friends were always fine. I said that to a customer in the real store and she told me her German shepherd had a urinary tract infection.

She told me her German shepherd had a urinary tract infection

The real store has some advantages too. Every couple of weeks I get a cheque from my bosses for playing grocery store. In my pretend store, I just got yelled at by my dad for making a mess.

In my pretend store, I had an annoying little brother who drove me crazy, but now in the real store I've got one or two cute stockboys to flirt with.

It all evens out.

Nobody's job is perfect, and three years later I'm still not sure if I like the real store better than my pretend one.

Last week when I was working, a little girl came through my checkout and said, "I can't wait until I grow up so I can work here." She made me smile.

Islam often misunderstood

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

A Muslim is not a terrorist.

Chances are if you ask average Canadians what they think of when you say "Muslim" they will answer "terrorist."

Of course, not everyone agrees, but the fact remains a large number of Canadians are ignorant about these people and their beliefs.

It's not our fault. For the past two decades we have been bombarded with images of death and destruction in the Middle East. Those responsible are often labelled "Islamic Fundamentalists," by the news media.

While these groups may call themselves "Islamic," they are not.

The truth is, Islam promotes peace towards one's fellow man, and does not condone acts of terrorism, nor does it condone the slaughtering of women and children, as is happening in Algeria.

The news media have never — to my knowledge — made any effort to shed light on this misconception. As a result, our image of this religion and its followers has been fogged.

A little understanding could go a long way.

Canadian and proud

By MARY WARRINER
Staff Writer

O Canada!

The great flag debate in the House of Commons has been front-page news for the past few weeks.

Whether small flags should be allowed on MPs' desks has been highly debated. Is it an issue of patriotism or are the flags just being used as props?

A decision was finally made by House of Commons Speaker and Welland MP Gib Parent. His final ruling was small Canadian flags will not be allowed because of a previous decision on the issue of props being used in the Commons.

It was beginning to seem as though the MPs were acting like children throwing temper tantrums. Is there nothing better for the MPs to be discussing?

The ruling came as a shock to many patriotic Canadians like me who feel the Canadian flag is a symbol that represents our great country and evokes a feeling of pride whenever it is displayed.

It's as if we're being told that we should be proud of our country — as long as we don't show it.

I remain proud to be a Canadian, while my faith in the government remains shaky.

Why do men do this?

By SONYA DRAGAN
Staff Writer

Automobiles aren't female.

Males have this weird notion their favorite car, truck or snowmobile is female.

Males give two reasons explaining why they assign gender to vehicles.

One said men refer to automobiles as "her" or "she" because automobiles, like women, are noisy and obnoxious. Automobiles, like women, never do what they're supposed to do. Automobiles, like women, cost guys a lot of money.

Another said automobiles, like women, are things of beauty.

Cars, trucks and snowmobiles are inanimate objects and are not female. I find it degrading when men classify women and automobiles together.

Would men like it if women started referring to things they're interested in as "he" or "him?" Would men enjoy being categorized as an inanimate object?

The conclusion may be men have inherited this annoying habit from their fathers and grandfathers.

For centuries women have been degraded by men. In 1998, when men are calling automobiles of any form "her" or "she," they're setting back the women's movement 100 years.

Shopping trip becomes disaster

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Words hurt.

Recently I was shopping with friends. We decided to try on some clothes, so we headed toward the store we liked, and grabbed shirts, pants and dresses.

I tried on the clothes I liked the least, first. That way I could save the best for last — a pair of hip-hugging plaid pants flared at the pant bottom.

I had always wanted those kind of pants and I was going to buy them that day, so I tried them on.

My friends had already changed and were examining their outfits when I came out.

The look on their faces said it all. Slowly, I went to the mirrors.

At first I thought it had to be a trick, but when I looked at the reflection of my friends and the others, they looked the same.

My reflected image however made the words "chicken legs" and "toothpick" instantly came to mind.

I wanted to say "sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me," yet I would have been lying. I had been called those names before, but I hadn't thought about it.

'sticks and stones will break my bones'

I stared into the mirror. One of my friends said, "You look really thin." It wasn't till that minute I realized how much it hurt to hear someone say that.

As I was growing up, I was teased for being thin, but I overlooked it. I never believed it until now.

That reflected image made it clear to me that whether someone is making remarks on how thin you are, or teasing you for being a bit overweight — it hurts!

Next time you have the urge to make fun of others because of their weight, think again. Whether or not you mean it in a negative way, it hurts a person's feelings.

Needless to say, I didn't buy the pants.

Watch for our last edition — April 17

Profiles

Planning director growing with Niagara

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Home away from home for Lyn Russo is the Welland campus office she occupies as director of the Communications and Planning Department at Niagara College.

Russo, 46, of Welland, who is married, a mother of three, and a grandmother of two, has been with the college since 1991. She started as the director of marketing. Her job description evolved into communications about a year and a half ago.

"We make connections. We connect people within the college. It's marketing and communications for the college," she says.

Her duties include all the publications (except the *Niagara News*) for the college, the college calendar, the student handbook, brochures, promotional material, an internal newsletter, *In Touch With Staff* and an external newsletter, *N Compass*.

She's also responsible for designing, writing and placing all advertisements for the college, anywhere from 800 to 1,000 ads a year.

If that isn't enough, Russo helps organize special events for the college as well as supporting other people running special events here. She assists them with display units, media releases, and any special promotional items they might need. She does a lot of database management, direct mail and general relations for the college.

Russo says, in theory, her hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but that isn't how it works out.

She says she works "as many hours as required to do the job, including evenings and weekends, depending on what needs to be done."

As for job satisfaction, Russo works with people from all different levels and departments within the college, an opportunity "which I really enjoy."

Asked what keeps her interested, she says "different challenges every day. You don't know what's going to happen. You might have your day planned out and it's hijacked.

LYN RUSSO

It's interesting, I never get bored."

Russo says she bores easily so if there's "even a modicum" of boredom, something new comes along. She receives a variety of external calls and questions and does her best to solve problems for people by "connecting them. (I'm) the link."

The switchboard puts calls through to her when they're not sure where the call should be directed, she says, adding she plays "detective" for callers. If she doesn't have the answer she knows who does and where to go.

"There are so many interesting things going on at the college, so many new initiatives and individual projects by students, teams and faculty. All the different divisions . . . are doing more than ever in the history of this college. Keeping up with that is an absolutely major challenge for the corporate side of the house as well as *Niagara News*."

Where does Russo see herself in 10 years?

"I can see myself continuing to grow with Niagara College. The communication career is the right place to be."

Russo says her "ravenous appetite" to learn keeps her in continuing education. She received her diploma in the Communication Arts, Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations program (as Journalism-Print was known in 1971) from Niagara. Last year she received a university degree in science and management. She says she expects to start working on her master's in communication and organization and behavior next year.

"The older I get, the less black and white I have become. There are many, many shades of grey."

Russo alludes to being stubborn and opinionated earlier in life, but says, "The older you get, the less you know."

Being a journalist herself, Russo says *Niagara News* is an "excellent" publication.

"Look at the other side of the story, and I find it's not even just the other side. It's multifaceted. There are many, many sides to every story."

From television to radio to classroom

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

This part-time faculty member not only teaches current events but also reports on them.

Indira Naidoo-Harris, formerly of Durban, South Africa, is a current events teacher at the Welland campus.

Naidoo-Harris works at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) as an announcer on National Radio News for World Report on Saturday and Sunday mornings and at Canada's first Multicultural Television station (CFMT) as a news anchor for South Asian Newsweek on Sunday nights.

She came to Niagara last year to be a guest speaker about the CBC. She says it went so well she was offered a teaching job.

"I really like the challenge and putting myself on the line," says Naidoo-Harris. She teaches students in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film, Journalism-Print and General Arts and Science programs.

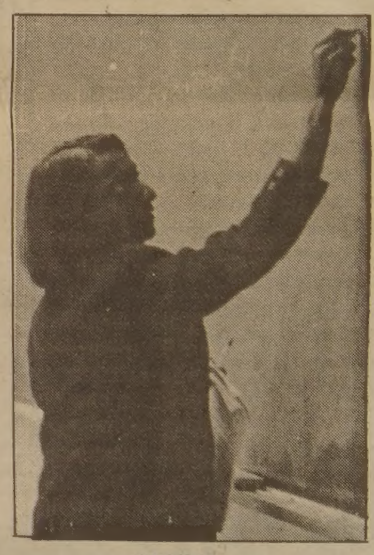
She has degrees from the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge and Queen's University in Kingston in political science and international relations.

'some days are good'

She says she regrets not finishing her master's thesis. "I've always finished everything in my life, except that."

Naidoo-Harris says she enjoys the students. "First term, I wasn't so sure (about the students). Second term was better. It was a little overwhelming (big class size). It was the first time I had taught at this level."

When she was 10 years old, her family moved to Alberta from South Africa. She says she went back once and had forgotten how traditional people are in South Africa. "I had to be careful about what I was doing."



INDIRA NAIDOO-HARRIS

She says she didn't like the political control in South Africa because of apartheid (separation by race). Her family was classified as non-white and didn't have a vote.

She says her teaching at the college has helped her in her other jobs. "I can question copy and how it is written and when we're doing an interview (I can) suggest that we might want to look at a different angle."

Naidoo-Harris says she helps write her copy at the CBC and CFMT.

Asked what she gets out of teaching, she says, "Some days are good days, other days aren't so good, but every now and then I feel like I've actually opened their eyes to something and that is what I'm trying to do."

She says she especially likes teaching current events because of her academic background.

She says her work in journalism has helped her not be shy in teaching. She says both professions force you to be assertive.

Naidoo-Harris says her main goal is "to open the students' mind so they continually empathize and put themselves in another person's position to see how they deal with it. I work really hard at trying to make the student see a different perspective."

She says her best personality trait is organization because she works about 50 hours a week while taking care of her three-year-old son, Galen. She works 15 hours a week at the college, five hours at CFMT and 16 hours at the CBC, not including preparation time and being called in unexpectedly. She says spending time with Galen is what relaxes her.

She is committed to Niagara College for the 1997/98 term, and would like to continue teaching in some form, she says.

ESL teacher sees difference between students, immigrants

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

There is a difference between teaching international students and teaching immigrants, says one of the college's English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors.

Carolyn Ambrose, 32, of Mississauga, Ont., is working in Niagara College's International Education Department.

She was born in Winnipeg, Man., and graduated from Brock University in St. Catharines in 1990.

Ambrose majored in sociology and Teaching English as a Second Language. During high school and university she was a teaching assistant for an ESL summer school program every July for eight years.

After graduating from university, she taught English in Japan and southern Mexico. In addition, she taught new Canadians (refugees and immigrants) in St. Catharines and Mississauga.

Ambrose is an ESL teacher and, temporarily, the co-ordinator of the International ESL program at Niagara College. She has been at the college on and off since 1992.

Teaching immigrants is much different than teaching international students, she says.

"International students focus themselves on studying and having fun because they are here for a limited time. However, immigrants often have more complicated lives taking care of their families. This means my teaching changes to fit their needs."

CAROLYN AMBROSE

Ambrose says she "loves the job," and the international department is her favorite place to work.

"In this department, teachers are always respected as professionals and there is a positive atmosphere here. It is congenial and everyone is co-operative, flexible and enthusiastic."

As a co-ordinator, she basically keeps the communications going between the teachers and the manager, she says.

Ambrose organizes the orientation schedule, helps plan the social activities for the international students, schedules exams and graduation ceremonies, and meets with the students when they have problems with their classes or with their lives in Canada.

On a personal level, she tries to make the effort to talk a little to everyone each day so they feel welcome and relaxed here at Niagara College, she says.

Ambrose says meeting different kinds of students from different cultures is one of the "big advantages" of her job.

"I love learning about people, their culture, their personal beliefs and reflections on my country."

She says she helps them with satisfaction.

"I have lived outside of Canada twice, and I will never forget how I felt when they (Japanese and Mexicans) helped me, so I like to work with the international students and help them become independent people living in a new country."

Residence start-up easy, says manager

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

Despite some growing pains, the new Niagara College student residence is running smoothly, says its manager.

Derek Wills says he is happy with the operation of the residence for 231 students.

"I've been involved in a lot of start-up projects, but this one, by far, was the easiest," he says.

The residence in Welland opened in September 1997. It's a five-minute walk to school.

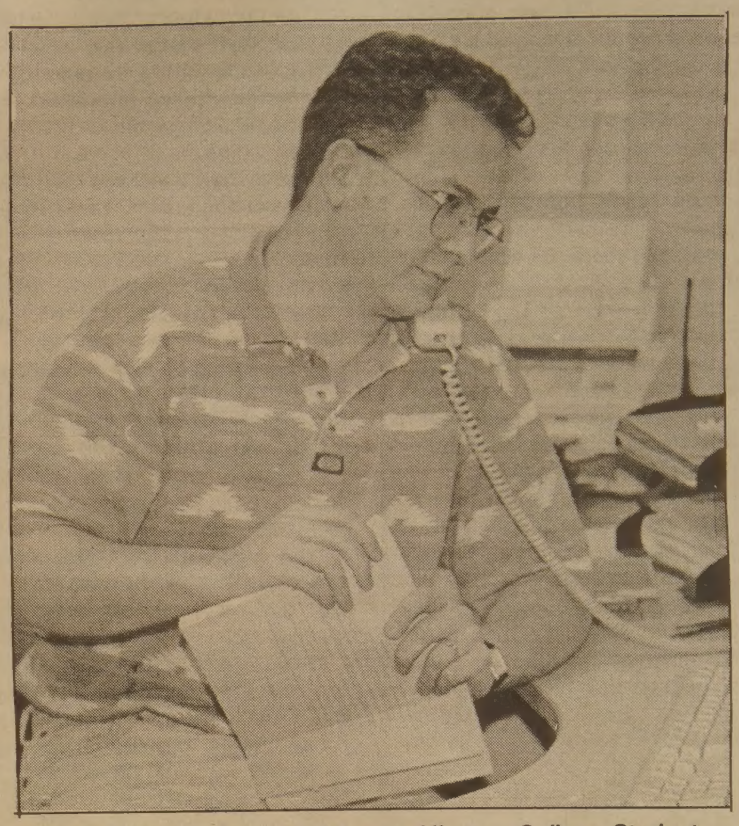
There is 24-hour security at the front desk, dead-bolt locks on all the doors and a sign-in procedure before guests are allowed in the building.

"There are a lot of people who don't realize what we do here. Even though you're paying more money, it's worth the benefits you get," says Wills.

He says he spent most of March, April, May and June of last year taking telephone calls from applicants, ordering furniture and attending planning meetings. He says he had to set out specific dates to have everything delivered on time.

He says from August until mid-September he didn't take a day off. During the last two weeks of August and the first week of September, he was working an average of 16 hours a day, he says.

Wills lives in Welland with his wife Cheryl and daughter Emalee. He graduated from Brock University in St. Catharines with a four-year honors degree in political science/business administration and then attended Niagara College in the one-year in the Human Resource program.



Derek Wills, manager of the new Niagara College Student Residence, works on completing his daily tasks.
Photo by Angela Pickering

After receiving his certification to the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario, he worked as an assistant manager at the residence at Oshawa's Durham College. He started there in November 1993 and didn't leave until February 1997, when he was transferred by Campus Living Centres to Niagara to manage the new residence being built.

Wills says his duties range from doing the payroll, collecting bills, paying bills and handling emergencies.

He says he is responsible for every possible function in the building.

He says an incident occurred one night and it was lucky residence staff was there to handle it. A fire extinguisher was sprayed in a student's face. The front desk staff called the ambulance and assisted in the situation.

He says the responsibility he carries is huge and he takes "it very seriously."

In the situation of the student and the fire extinguisher, Wills says he is held responsible and, if a more serious injury had resulted from the incident, the student's parents would hold him to blame legally and emotionally.

Residence CONFERENCE CENTRE

Wills says he has to deal with room-mates who don't get along and can't seem to live together, but prefers to let them deal with it themselves.

"It's all a part of residence and growing up. You're going to have to deal with problems. We can't do everything for them (the residents)."

Wills says he has more events to plan for this September that they didn't have time to plan last year.

He said he wanted to get the dons and assistant dons into residence earlier, but the place wasn't legally ready to live in.

"If I let them move in, I could get in serious trouble and lose the whole thing, and then there would be 231 upset students with nowhere to go."

Wills explains a past experience at Kitchener's Conestoga College residence. He says the residence wasn't ready for a month after classes started and they had to put the students in a Holiday Inn until the building was finished. The bill added up to $150,000.

At the Durham College residence where Wills previously worked, he said the students were standing outside in the parking lot that wasn't even paved yet, waiting for the fire marshal to give his last inspection. At the Niagara residence, students weren't waiting more than five minutes at the front desk.

Wills says he wants to improve activities in September and too much was directed towards age of majority students.

"We need more residence-oriented events, because there wasn't much this year. We have to try to make events non-19. Not everything has to be alcohol related," he says. "We just couldn't do the number of things that we had planned. We're going to have TVs here next year so students don't bring their own. It's one more little thing we can do to make the place better."

Wills says they're going to take a percentage of second-year students next year. They are aiming at 30 per cent of the students being second-year students, but the residence is really designed for first-year students.

"Generally second-year students look for a more economical way of living. The problem with living off-campus is you'll likely have to sign a 12-month lease, which means you have to pay for the place through the summer even though you're not living there."

Wills says, overall, the operation of the residence went off without too much trouble, but "it didn't feel easy."

Dealing with problems is a part of every kind of work, he says.

"The residence is a benefit that will continue for students in the years to come."

Fond memories of college life, lifetime of opportunities

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

This graduate says she feels her time at the college was well spent.

Since 1984 Niagara College has taken on a different look. Buildings have been added, including a student residence, and the After Hours pub has been constructed.

The one thing that hasn't changed is the education students receive from the college.

Kathy Klodt, 33, of Burlington, attended the college from 1984 to 1987.

"The college gives me some of my fondest memories. I came here hoping to be successful. Niagara gave me so much more."

Klodt was enrolled in the Business Administration program. "The college provided a lot of hands-on experience."

Everything she learned in the classroom was put to use in the "real world," she says, adding this made the program more beneficial.

The program offered courses such as financial management, marketing, sales and accounting. "There was such a broad range of courses to choose from. This gave each student the option to pick what aspect of the course they wanted to follow."

College life was different then, says Klodt. "My college days were fun, but I wasn't involved with many of the extracurricular activities, if there even was any. I lived in Port Colborne so I drove to school everyday. There wasn't a pub then, so I didn't really have a reason to stay. I didn't have the wild college days that everyone imagines, but I do have many wonderful memories.

"I learned a lot of information during college that I still use to this day."

Once the Business Administration program was completed, the program's staff helped the students to find placements, she says.

"The college helped me make a resume and then they helped me find a job. Within two months I was hired in the Beaver Lumber head office in Hamilton."

This job lasted a year and a half, says Klodt.

After leaving Beaver Lumber, Klodt got a job at Jake's Boathouse in Burlington. She started as a waitress. This didn't require much of her college education, but, she says, she knew it had "potential."

After being a waitress for five years she was promoted to management. "This was a challenge all on its own. Being the only woman management in a bar full of men was quite the adventure."

Klodt continued as a manager for four years. Having worked at Jake's for nine years, she says she wanted to challenge herself once again. A position became available as office manager.

Klodt continues to work at Jake's doing what she has "always" wanted to do.

"I feel my three years at Niagara provided me with a lifetime of opportunity. They introduced me to my husband, gave me lifetime friends and taught me so much information. I know I can choose any profession and know I can succeed."

Grandmother cleans for love of students

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

She's a grandmother, a mother and a wife, yet she finds the time to clean more than 100 rooms on a weekly basis.

Mary-Lou Tremblay, of Welland, is part of the four-person staff at Niagara College's new student residence.

Tremblay has a long history of working for the college. She spent five years at the "sub cart" before moving to the Donut Diner at the Welland campus. Now she's at the residence.

"Derek (Wills, residence manager) came to me when I was working at the Donut Diner and asked me if I wanted a new job," said Tremblay.

She has an array of tasks which keep her constantly on the move. Her job includes everything from working the front desk to mopping the kitchen and bathroom floors of all the students' rooms. Cleaning the rooms alone takes "about a week and half."

"I do about 18 rooms a day. I also vacuum hallways, clean the games room, the laundry room and the kitchen," she said, adding there's a big difference from room to room with the way people live and how clean they keep their room. Unless the rooms have counters cleaned off and bathroom floors clear of towels and other things, she's not obligated to clean them.

As lonely as that sounds, she does have company.

Tremblay's husband is also part of the main staff at the residence.

"I don't mind . . . It's the first time that he's worked in 24 years. I'm just happy for him," said Tremblay.

She said they'll be back next year and for years after.

The main reason she's here and wants to come back is because of the students.

"I love to be around the kids. That's what I liked about my job at the sub cart. Here I get to know them better. They're a lot of fun."

The Faculty

Student back to teach

Goffin teaches in CYW course

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

A restless student finally made it back to the Niagara Peninsula to teach college.

Walt Goffin, 44, a Niagara College professor in the Child and Youth Worker (CYW) program, gained his post-secondary education and work experience in the United States.

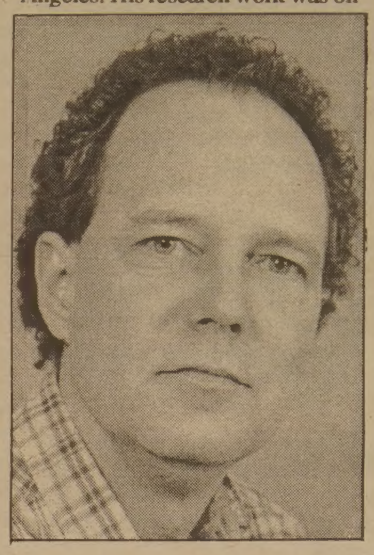
Goffin's first stop was Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y., in 1972, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and political science. He was in the top 10 per cent of his 1977 graduating class.

Los Angeles was his next stop. The University of California presented him with a distinguished scholar award.

He said to get an education in the United States isn't as hard as some Canadians might think. He said the universities there will pay tuition fees for students who have top marks.

'I enjoy my job. The best part of it is teacher / student contact.'

Goffin took a break from his academic studies in 1979. He was hired by U.S. Customs at Los Angeles International Airport, where he worked until 1980. For the next year, he worked at the Southern California Research Institute in Los Angeles. His research work was on



WALT GOFFIN

psycho-active drugs and memory.

From California, he travelled north, in 1982, to start his degree in social psychology at the State University of New York in Buffalo, N.Y., where he was presented with another distinguished scholar award.

After another break in 1984, he worked for the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., as a communication research co-ordinator in film production. He said it was enjoyable work but he came back to Buffalo to finish his graduate work.

In 1985, while still in graduate school, Goffin started working part time at Niagara College's Welland campus. He taught introductory sociology, social institutions and child home and families. He worked in the evenings, then later switched to days.

Graduating from the State University of New York, in 1985, with a master's degree in social psychology, he began working full time at Niagara College in August 1986.

The college's three-year CYW program trains students to become mental health professionals. The students could eventually work with children and adolescents who are emotionally troubled or have behavioral disorders.

Goffin teaches topics such as exceptional children, crisis management, group dynamics, and psychopharmacology — a course providing basic knowledge about the current theories of substance abuse and psycho-active drugs.

Students are sometimes placed for work experience in various institutional settings, group homes and other social agencies.

Goffin said he is busy visiting placement sites as a work experience supervisor. Some sites in the Niagara area include Cerminara Boys Home-Open Custody/Detention facility in Niagara Falls, Child Development Centre in Welland, and Nova House and Women's Place in Welland.

"My job is to place women and men to do work experience that prepares them for jobs as child and youth workers. We have students placed at those sites from time to time."

He said when he isn't out on placement duties, he's at his college office, usually from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but his hours differ from day to day. He spends about 15 hours a week teaching classes.

"I enjoy my job. The best part of it is teacher/student contact. There isn't really a down side except perhaps the paperwork. Basically, if you don't enjoy teaching, you shouldn't be on faculty."

Goffin, born in St. Catharines, has lived there for nine years. Married for 19 years, he has two children.

Sex and Gender

By SARA De TAMBLE
Staff Writer

The times they are a changin', and the courses being offered at Niagara College are too.

One of the most obvious examples of this is a course entitled Sex and Gender: Canadian Style, which combines the use of videos, literature and class discussions about — well, sex.

Donna Kerrigan, 45, of Welland, teaches the course and says the fact such a course is offered is a testimony to how much society has changed since she was a student.

Kerrigan was born in Brantford, Ont., the middle child in a family of six girls.

"Coming from a large family was a very positive influence on me," she says. "I was close to my sisters."

However, Kerrigan says coming from a family in which her father was the only male had its disadvantages. She and her sisters could share with each other their concerns over boys and relationships, but without the male perspective they would have gotten from a brother. This lack was especially significant in a time when, she says, most fathers didn't relate well enough with their daughters or talk to them about sex.

This lack, Kerrigan says, caused her to look to the outside world for a "better understanding" of the male mind.

After attending North Park High School in Brantford, Kerrigan went on to achieve a bachelor of arts in English and a masters of art in political science at the University of Waterloo, in Waterloo, Ont. She took courses in psychology and sociology, but it was when she was offered a fellowship position that she got into college and university teaching, she says.

Over the years, Kerrigan has taught at Brock University in St. Catharines and Barrie's Georgian College. She says she began teaching at Niagara College in 1986 primarily as an English teacher, but in recent years there has been more of a push toward communications and gender education courses.

As for her Sex and Gender course, Kerrigan says she thinks such a class is important because it's a subject men and women "need to talk openly about." Her daughter Alison, 21, a University of Waterloo student, would like to see the course taught at a university in the future.

In addition to being a wife, a teacher and the mother of three girls, Kerrigan is also an author. She has written children's literature, as well as the textbook for her Sex and Gender course, and a creative writing textbook called *Class Act*, which she wrote with her husband, Gary Webb, also a professor at Niagara.

Kerrigan is smiling as she reflects on her teaching experience, something, she says, she "truly enjoys" and intends to continue.

She says teaching young people is one of the hardest jobs but also one of the most fulfilling. She says she thinks the difficulty lies in that with young people there are so many personalities involved, adding it's hard to cater to individual wants and needs.

"I'm really supportive of young people today. They have so many great advantages which weren't around when I was young."

Martel taking care of business program

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

A Niagara College graduate has returned to the college to teach.

Bonnie Martel, 39, of Port Colborne, has been the co-ordinator of the Business Administration Accounting program for the past two years.

"I like being co-ordinator, but I wouldn't want the role of always being out of class. I like being in class and working with students."

Martel attended the college in 1976 for one year and then left to work at Canada Post as a clerk in Port Colborne for nine years.

She said she decided to go back to school after being away for 10 years. She graduated from the college in 1986 from the Business Administration — Financial Management program.

She was offered a part-time teaching job after graduation.

She left teaching for two years, then returned in 1989.

To improve her skills, she took classes at night through the University of Toronto and York University in Toronto to become a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). She completed her courses in 1990 and became a CMA.

In 1990, she started to teach full time.

Martel said there wasn't anything she didn't like about teaching, but there is a lot of stress in not having enough time to get everything done.

She said things come up unexpectedly and students stop by to talk.

She said there has been a change in education over the past couple of years and "our division has become closer with the students."

One of Martel's former Business Administration — Accounting program students, Amy Davis, 23, of Union, S.C., said, "She is a good and caring teacher."

Martel has been married for 18 years and has one daughter.

Outside the college, Martel said most of her free time is spent with her 11-year-old daughter, Kelly.

"I do lots of things with Kelly. Most of my time is spent taking her to her dancing classes."

Martel said she once danced too, but had to give it up because she didn't have enough time for it.

She said she likes to downhill ski with her family and friends, but only goes once or twice a year to Holiday Valley, in Ellicottville, N.Y., and adds Lake Tahoe, Calif., is a "beautiful" place to go skiing.

With Martel's busy schedule she has one night to herself and she spends it bowling in a 10-pin league in Port Colborne.

"It's the only time I can get peace of mind and act totally silly."

Martel said she is excited about her program moving in September to the new Niagara-on-the-Lake campus, but "hopes" everything is complete and she'll have a classroom to teach in.

Now that you've graduated, you're probably going to need a lift to all those interviews.

For more information on Chrysler's Grad Program and vehicle line-up, look inside.

1998 Photography Awards

First-place photo illustration and Best of Show winner by Dan Dakin

Prizes for the fifth annual Journalism-Print program "Best of Year 2" photography competition were provided by the following donors: Kodak Canada Inc., Bell Arte Camera, MCL Professional Photo Finishing Lab, Ilford Anitec, the Niagara College Journalism-Print Department and Leo Tiberi, director of the college's Information and Computer Technology Division.

The winners of the fifth annual Journalism-Print program "Best of Year 2" photography competition were recently selected by members of the Journalism-Print advisory committee and Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

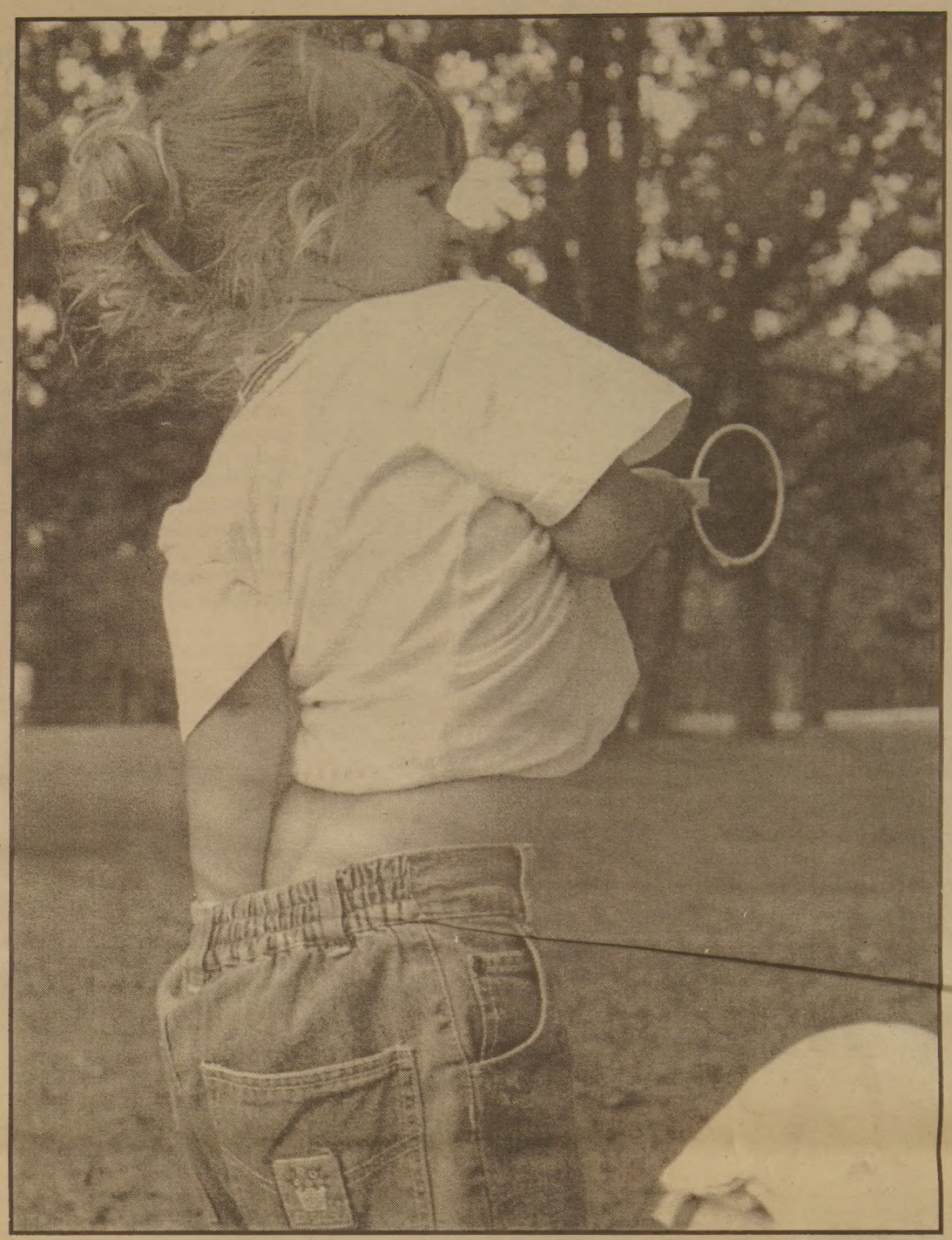
The committee included Gary Manning, manager editor of the Welland Tribune and chairman of the advisory committee, Jim Middleton, former managing editor of the Welland Tribune, Doug Firby, managing editor of the St. Catharines Standard, Paul Dayboll, Desktop Publishing faculty member and owner of CanTrack Software Inc., in Port Colborne, and Leo Tiberi, director Niagara College's Information and Computer Technology Division.

Faculty of the Journalism-Print program did not participate in the judging.

Photo Illustration

Second-place photo illustration by Cher Cirillo

Third-place photo illustration by Mark Riehl



First-place human interest by Cher Cirillo

Third-place human interest by Alex Halmai

Human Interest

Second-place human interest by Braden Tanguay

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Second-place news by Dan Dakin

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"THE MODERN FRAMING ALTERNATIVE"

Full coverage offered by student reporters

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

The *Niagara News* is not only home to budding journalists, but also serves as a voice for Niagara College students, faculty and members of the community.

Dina Arsenault, 25, of Dunnville, Ont., is a first-year student of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. She says the *Niagara News* is important to the college because it deals with issues concerning students. "Overall the paper is thorough and informative."

Arsenault says she reads the paper to keep up with life on and off campus.

"Obviously my program deals with entertainment, so I read that particular section and I usually go to the front page to see if anything major is going on outside of the college."

She says the style of the paper in general is good, and it makes it interesting for students to read. "It reminds me of an underground paper, polished but not so polished."

Arsenault says staff writers working for the newspaper should complete the proper research when writing stories about specific programs. "Some stories dealing with my program have been inaccurate. We all look at each other and think we don't get that impression."

Anoop Chugh, 24, of St. Catharines, is a second-year Mechanical Engineering Technology program student, and also executive vice-president of the Student Administrative Council (SAC).

Chugh says his impression of the *Niagara News* is excellent. "We follow it closely. SAC gets its own page and it's one of the venues we have to get information out to the students."

He says the newspaper should think about adding some new items to its regular format.

"Personal messaging would be great. I've had a lot of students comment about that."

Chugh says the *Niagara News* represents the college in a positive way. "Over the year, I mean as you see changes occur, the paper will go heavy on one major item, but overall I have no complaints where the paper is concerned."

Mary-Lou Eden, 56, is a full-time member of the English department, specializing in English as a second language. She has worked at the college since 1986, and has seen the *Niagara News* grow for more than 13 years. "I follow it more closely now and it has improved over the last couple of years."

Eden says the newspaper is "very good" and serves its readers well. "It reports on all aspects of student activity including student government, sports and administration."

She says the treatment given to the International Education Department by the newspaper has been positive. "I am very pleased at the coverage the paper has given this department."

Al Vaughan, 41, director of enrolment and registration, reads the paper every Friday when it comes out. "It gives me a good sense of what students are thinking and what issues they are concerned about."

He says the paper should cover issues dealing not only with education but also with controversial topics. "I think it's important the paper reflects social activities, but they should continue to find out from students how to improve their quality of learning as well as their student life."

Students want fresher food alternatives for menu items

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

It's unanimous.

Niagara College students say there should be a greater selection of restaurants in the college.

The Welland campus has only Mr. Sub, The Donut Diner, After Hours Pub, a cafeteria and vending machines for students to buy food.

Other universities and colleges have a wider selection of restaurants to choose from, such as Taco Bell, Harvey's and Chinese food outlets.

Brent Orr, 20, of Bradford, a second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program student, says, "I feel that the Mr. Sub lacks in variety. The same thing goes for the cafeteria. Other college campuses have things such as Taco Bell, McDonald's and other fast food restaurants right on site. I think we need more establishments. We need more fresher food and selection."

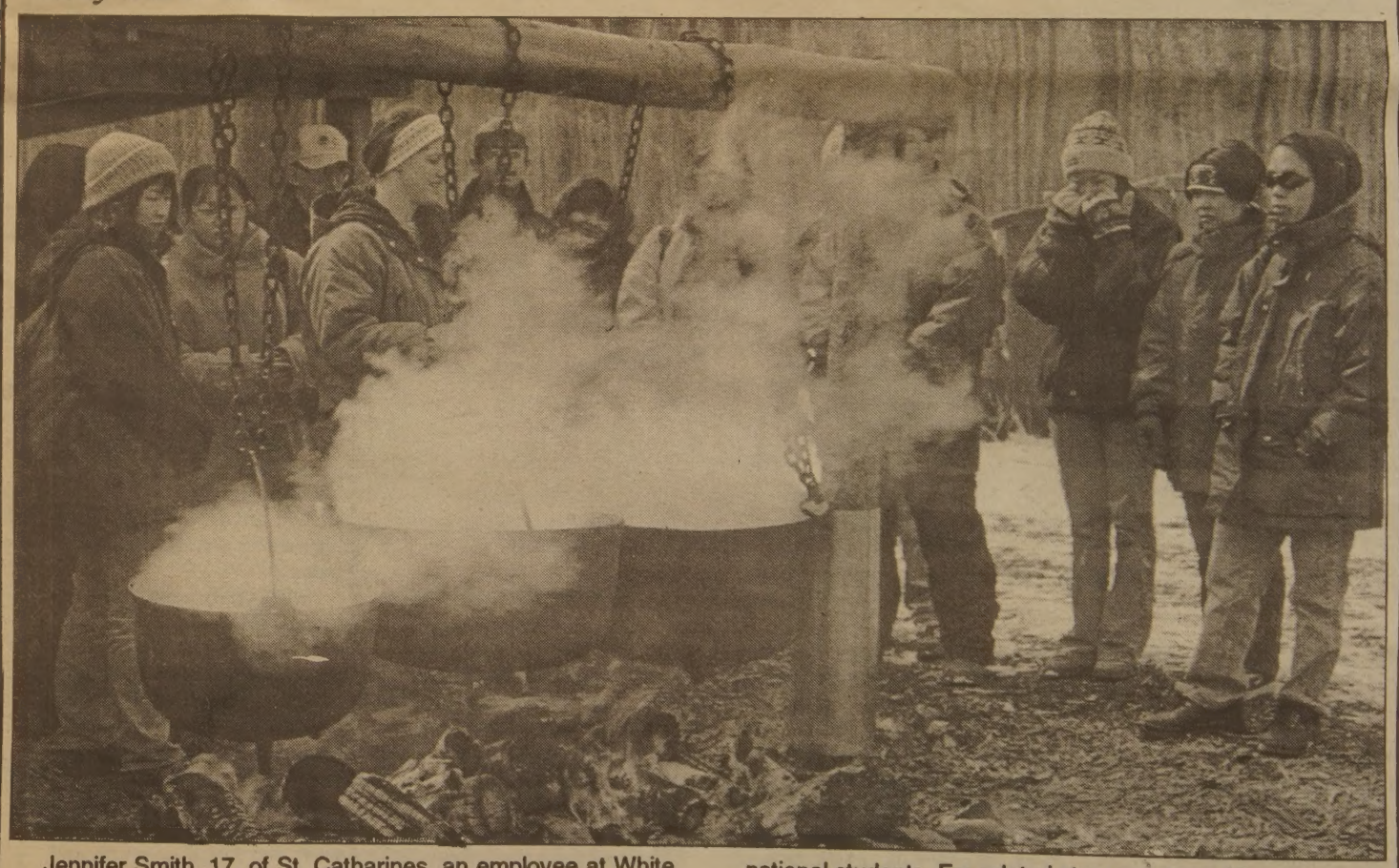
Steve Villeseche, 19, of Thorold, a first-year BRTF program student, says, "I think that there should be more food vending places. I don't know what I would like to see, maybe just a pizza place or something. We need more variety so there is more to choose from, other than The Donut Diner and Mr. Sub. It's just not enough variety. You can't eat that stuff every single day of the whole year."

The students say they want not only more restaurants but also more variety and quality in the restaurants.

Davin Snip, 20, of Simcoe, a first-year student in the BRTF program, says he thinks Niagara should have more eating establishments.

He says other colleges do, so why can't Niagara.

Sticky and sweet . . .



Jennifer Smith, 17, of St. Catharines, an employee at White Meadow Farm, demonstrates boiling maple sap for the international students. For related story see page 19.
Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

Money for books

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Clean out your locker and make some money doing it.

A book buyer will be at Niagara College's Welland campus April 13 to 16. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the buyer will be set up in the hallway outside of the campus store.

Nebraska Books is an American company specializing in buying used books from students at college and university campuses.

How does it work?

Marilyn Hynes, of Port Dalhousie, is the manager of the campus store.

Hynes said the buyer will have a laptop computer into which will be entered the author or the ISBN (bar code). The information the buyer will get back indicates whether the book is in demand and how much the buyer will be willing to pay.

The prices will vary according to demand. Some books may not be accepted.

"This is the time he does the best because a lot of students are returning home and don't need to cart those books back," said Hynes.

"It's a good time to clean out your locker."

McPherson teaches stress management, psych courses

Challenging opportunities

By MARY WARRINER
Staff Writer

Gord McPherson, 57, of Pelham, says working at Niagara College's Welland campus makes for a "pleasant, challenging and interesting opportunity."

McPherson, who has worked here for 30 years, says he likes it "very much."

"I like working with students and working in classes or courses that I enjoy."

Before coming to Niagara, McPherson worked for a few years in industrial engineering.

"For the first 18 years I was with the student services counselling placement, then I worked for co-op education, and then I became a full-time teacher."

McPherson works in the General Education Foundations Division. Some of the courses he teaches are Introductory Psychology 100 and 200, Stress and Stress Management, and Communicating in Relationships.

"Most of my courses are psychology-related. I often do courses in career planning and job hunting.

"I feel stress almost everyday. I think without it I would be bored."

McPherson says he uses some of the stress-management techniques he teaches in his classes, such as breathing techniques.

He says giving up coffee and cigarettes and watching what you eat can help control your stress level.

Student artwork on display at winery

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

Niagara College artists are raising money to fund their own art exhibition.

Students from the Art and Design Fundamentals—Graphic and Design Production program sat bright-eyed and smiling behind a long table inside the entrance to the college cafeteria on March 20. They offered boxes of candy for sale to raise money for the exhibition of their art work, which includes sculpture, pastels, life drawing and computer graphics. The students hope to raise $3,000 in time for the art exhibition.

The program is designed for students who want a career in the visual art, design and communications industry. Students are trained in the principles of art and design through drawing two- and three-dimensional design, screen printing, typographic skills and computer applications for graphic design.

Extra-curricular projects, a part of their training, afford the students practical experience. Some recent projects include the Vision Niagara logo, a Welland Museum brochure, the St. Catharines Labor Council logo, a St. Catharines Museum brochure, the Niagara College seasonal greeting cards and Student Administrative Council murals.

Projects are sometimes entered into competition and in the past some have won recognition. One example of their successes was at the Art Director's Club in New York City, where awards were won for four three-dimensional posters.

Michelle King, of St. Catharines, said she likes the program. "It's a challenge and it's very satisfying when you complete an assigned project."

She said there's a lot of work packed into the two-year program. "It's very intense."

Asked about the exhibition of their art work, King said, "I feel the show is beneficial in that it will raise awareness about our program and the quality of the students' work. I think that the industry will be shown our competency and creativity, also that the graduates from our program are as skilled if not more (skilled) than students from other educational facilities."

The staff consultant for the art exhibition is Ken Cosgrove. The show will be held at Magnotta Winery, 4701 Ontario St., in Beamsville, on April 3 to 5 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. April 3 and April 5 are open to the public. April 4 is by invitation only. Some of the art work will be for sale. Admission is free.

Elizabeth Toth, of Ridgeway, said, "It's a good program. I'll be happy to graduate."

She said there hasn't been an art show for their program for at least three years. She said the show will also showcase the photographs of the second-year students in the college's Journalism-Print program, and the visual design work of the students in the post-graduate Interactive Multimedia program.

"This is a great opportunity for the students to showcase their work to the public and the industry. It's a completely student-organized show. All the second-year students are involved in the fund-raising drive. Any money not used for the exhibition has been earmarked for a bursary fund for the second-year art program students."

Stacy Jordan, 22, of Port Colborne, said, "I do like the program because of the amount of studio time we have to work on our fine art. I feel fortunate we have the show because I have no idea how else I could have had my art work shown. It gives me confidence in myself."

Campbell Macmillan, 22, of Welland, said, "The program is a very good experience. Ken Cosgrove has had a most profound effect on my learning period at Niagara. The exhibition is going to be excellent. It's going to display a lot of cutting-edge artwork."

New YMCA needed in Welland

Donations sought for new building

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Will there be a new YMCA building for Welland? A YMCA employee hopes so.

Mimi Price, 36, of Quebec City, has been the manager of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) at 285 East Main St. in Welland for 2 1/2 years. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario, in London, with a degree in physical education.

She works full time providing maintenance, programming and membership services.

Members at the Welland YMCA participate in a step class.

Photo by Amy Kaal

'I like to see people achieve results.' — Mimi Price

She says she also helps with the capital fund-raising campaign for a new YMCA in Welland. Purchase offers have been made for land on the corner of Woodlawn and River Roads.

"It (YMCA) is just too small for us now. Originally . . . there was supposed to be more added to it, but it never happened," says Price.

She says she hopes the new YMCA is built. The YMCA is asking banks, businesses, service clubs and individuals for donations.

"We go to the community. Everybody is invited to donate money. No amount is too small," says Price.

The new YMCA will cost $7 million. Of that total, the YMCA must raise $4 million.

"We want to make sure everybody is recognized for what they've done (by donating) for this community because we look at the YMCA as truly a centre of the community so everybody can come. Nobody is turned away," says Price.

For now, she says, "We are doing the best we can with what we have. We are limited because we don't have a gymnasium."

There are five levels of YMCA membership. The annual fee for a child is $95; a student, $160; an adult, $275; a senior, $210; and a family, $445.

Price says if it's difficult for someone to pay, one can apply for financial assistance or a subsidy. The YMCA determines how much the person can afford and that's what is paid. "No one is turned away from the YMCA because of inability to pay."

The YMCA has about 3,300 members, 700 of whom are on financial assistance. Price says the YMCA has 800 children registered in swimming lessons. "We're the only (facility with an) indoor pool in Welland. That makes a difference."

Price says the YMCA's equipment is up to date. "What we try to do is make sure that what we offer here is comparable with any club, or any YMCA, in the country."

Members are aged six months and up. She says the most popular activities are fitness and the pool. "We give the people of the community everything they need."

The best part of her job, Price says, is "people."

"I love working with people and my door is always open. The members are always free to come to talk to me. I like to see people achieve results."

The top three reasons why people come to the YMCA, she says, are to get fit, to get healthier and to make friends.

The YMCA is open weekdays 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Niagara College students can swim for free at the YMCA. All memberships are interchangeable with any other YMCA.

More adult training planned

Cutting-edge technology at new campus

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

There is no age limit on education.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said he has "big-time" plans for adults looking into continuing education.

Patterson said Niagara College's new Niagara-on-the-Lake Glendale campus, opening this fall, will "offer a very big continuing education program."

For General Motors employees at Plant 2 in St. Catharines, it will be simple for them to use what is offered for adults wanting a career change or advancement.

"We actually have people on staff at GM working in the training field, co-ordinating training for employees," said Patterson.

College staff are informing adults about opportunities they have and trying to calm concerns about career changes.

Patterson said they want to make people "more comfortable with the world of work and explain that learning and changing careers is a positive opportunity and not the end of the world."

Patterson said he is "excited" about the location. The new campus should bring in people from the four key municipalities of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Thorold.

"Education is a critical component and I'm looking forward to serving all people interested in continuing their education."

Better future for Niagara student

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Diversity among students and programs at Niagara College's Welland campus has put the college in excellent standing.

Ranging in ages from 19 to 47, many of these students share the same goal.

"Trying to make a better future," said first-year student Ron Green, 47, who moved to St. Catharines from Toronto to take the three-year Computer Engineering Technology (CET) program.

Having no history in computer engineering, he said, "It's a lot of new information. I'm wondering if I haven't bitten off more than I can chew."

He said he is pleased his schedule doesn't waste too much time. Any spares he has are "taken up by tutors," he said. "It's an 80-hour week."

This is a "one-shot" deal offered to Green through disability retraining after injuring himself on a construction job. His future plans include finding a job he can do well.

"I'm going to have to gauge my proficiency."

Kevin Perquin, 20, a first-year student, moved to Welland from Toronto to take the three-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program.

"I checked out other colleges and found that Niagara offered the best program," said Perquin.

His schedule is "all over the place," he said. "It is hectic."

Perquin said his days are always switched around, a schedule which coincides with his carefree nature.

"We never know what we'll be shooting or doing from one day to another."

He said he's not too fond of the "theory or writing" aspects of the program, adding, "the hands-on experience is a necessary tool."

Perquin describes his program as "interesting, with a lot of twists in it." One of his film projects is to produce, write and direct a short black-and-white silent film.

For television, he said he's looking forward to writing his first one-minute standup newscast, which can be about anything. He will then produce a fully scripted 15-minute broadcast. He said his biggest challenge will come as he prepares a three-hour radio broadcast.

Unlike Green and Perquin, Wayne Nagy, 19, and Katherine Barrick, 20, are a team enrolled in the one-year Career and College Opportunities (CCO) program.

They are the "proud" parents of Austin, 21 months, who spends his day in the Child Care Centre at the Welland campus.

Nagy is from Welland. "I brought her (Barrick) here from Port Colborne," he said.

Both are first-year students who agreed "Niagara was the best choice for them."

Nagy said location, day care, and a lack of transportation helped in that decision. He has a part-time job at Angelo's Restaurant in Welland while Barrick has her hands full at home caring for Austin.

"A full class load, a lot of homework, a part-time job and a baby make for a full and busy life," said Nagy.

Whether they're a single parent in CET, a single young man in BRTF or a family unit in CCO programs, whatever events brought these people to the college, the reasons they have to remain and the uncertainty the future holds for them, they all agreed with the same concept. They might as well learn something along the way.

This series of interviews was done in October 1997. To date, Green said he may have chosen the wrong program. He said the mathematics is too complicated and he "can't get a handle on the computer." He said he'll finish the term, but after that he's not sure what he'll do.

Barrick said the CCO program helped her and Nagy get some direction for the future. Barrick is enrolled in the Call Centre Representative Service program for September. Nagy is going to the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls to become a chef.

Perquin said he's going to pursue film in the BRTF program for his second year. First, he has to finish a 30-minute television show for which he is the executive producer. It will be a combination of comedy and drama called *Midnight Radio*.

Working together

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Strategic directions for integrated training and research and employment partnerships were highlighted for Niagara College's Board of Governors on March 12.

Bill Ford and John Podmore, of the Council of Regents' Liaison Team, discussed the college's strategic directions.

A presentation on the Centre for Integrated Manufacturing Training and Applied Research (CIMTAR) given by Bonnie Rose, vice-president, academic, and Brian Moukperian, director of the Integrated Manufacturing and Customized Training Division. As well, they reported on the two-year-old Quality Engineering Technician program.

CIMTAR will be located at the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The four programs in CIMTAR are Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op), Manufacturing Engineering Technology (Co-op), Manufacturing Technician and Quality Engineering Technician. Students share a common first year. Second-year Quality Engineering Technician program students go into specialized courses.

All students entering the Quality Engineering Technician program must have their own Pentium laptop computer. Thirteen students were enrolled in September 1996 and seven in 1997.

Tuition is $1,854 per academic year for the program.

Scott Budgell, student representative on the Board of Governors, suggested companies in this field should sponsor students for the program and then be a co-op location for the student.

Finding which employment skills exist in the Niagara Region and who has them are the aim of the Local Labor Market Initiative, Niagara Region. A partnership between Niagara College and Human Resources Development Canada is to develop a local employment opportunities database (both provincial and federal).

The initiative will be at the Ventures Centre at the St. Catharines campus.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson's report was discussed briefly. Included was a proposal submitted to the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund for $630,000 for CIMTAR.

The Ventures Division also participated in a series of four television programs on *Daytime*, hosted by Cogeco Cable. Featured were programs on the Innovation Centre, Small Business Club Niagara, Community Partners in Enterprise and Business Financing.

Helping students in money maze

By COREY ZIRALDO
Staff Writer

When students need money, there is one person who is there for them.

As Niagara College's associate registrar in the Admissions and Financial Aid office, Elaine Grandmaison, 55, of Welland, plays a major role in the operation of the college.

Each year she must ensure students not only get into their classes, but also receive their Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) funds without hassle.

A graduate of Niagara College, Grandmaison said she enjoys her job. She said every day is different and challenging.

The Glendale Avenue campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is set to open in September, so Grandmaison will be training and working with her staff there, while continuing her work at the Welland campus.

With more than 3,500 students getting OSAP this year, Grandmaison said she has a lot of work ahead of her. The 1998/99 OSAP forms are expected this month.

She had organized seminars with a representative from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) but only a handful of students attended. "I try to communicate useful information to the students," she said. "It is very discouraging."

ELAINE GRANDMAISON

Next semester Grandmaison is preparing a booklet for students to help them better understand their responsibilities and expectations when applying for OSAP. It will include advice from a CIBC representative.

She said most students need to budget their finances better because of the reality of how much interest they must pay back when they finish school.

Grandmaison said most students are "shocked" at how much their monthly payments are. Students are told before the summer they have been accepted to college and it is then they should begin budgeting for the coming school year, she said.

The financial aid office is flooded every term with students looking to obtain their OSAP funds or an answer for being rejected, she said.

"Everybody comes in with a whole new set of circumstances. We are the front line. If they are disappointed or frustrated, we are the people they want to decide (their OSAP funding).

We are trying to do our best for the students, but they have to understand there are certain limitations due to ministry (Ministry of Education and Training) policy," said Grandmaison.

Maple syrup tasting happening this time of year

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

It's time to taste the maple syrup.

Fifteen Niagara College international students visited White Meadows Farm in St. Catharines on March 13.

Nancy Spada, of Port Colborne, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, said the purpose of the trip to the Sugar Bush is to take students to a farm where they make the maple syrup.

"I want the students to get an idea of how the sap is made into maple syrup by the natives, the pioneers and the present-day farmers."

Sap is the sweet liquid that runs from the roots of the tree to the branches and leaves. When the weather begins to get warm in the spring, the sap runs and comes up from the roots of the tree.

During this time the maple trees are tapped and the sap is taken out of the tree in the harvest.

This time of the year is called sugaring time. The weather affects how long this time lasts.

Angela Barron, 24, of Mexico, said she enjoyed the trip because it was a "different experience" for her.

White Meadows Farm started making maple syrup as a business in 1991 and started running a pancake hut in 1994.

Jennifer Smith, 17, of St. Catharines, an employee at White Meadows Farm, guided the students through the woods where the maple trees are tapped and the sap collected.

Smith said Canada's largest syrup producers are in Ontario and Quebec.

"I'm worried about the maple syrup business in Quebec this year because of the ice storm, which caused a lot of damage to maple trees."

"The most impressive part of the tour was the process of making the syrup from the maple trees. It was even mystrious to me," said Jong-Sik Park, 25, of Korea.

Maple syrup is graded according to color and taste. There are five grades to choose from: extra light, light, medium, amber and dark.

Yuka Aoyama, 22, of Japan, said she was impressed to see so many kinds of syrup in the gift shop.

Yukie Mizutani, 23, of Japan, said, "I really like the maple syrup and always wanted to know how to make it. It was a good experience for me."

Entertainment

It's a wrap for comedy night

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The last two comedy nights at Niagara College took place at After Hours March 18 and 25.

Appearing for the final show on March 25 were Toronto's Martina Gabriel, 27 and Ottawa's Terry McGurrin, 29.

Gabriel's set can be described with one word: sex. Her set included many graphic descriptions of lesbian practices, shaving and sexual experiences.

"My boyfriend is thinking about getting his foreskin pierced, which is a great idea because then he could put a weight on it," she said.

She shared her observations of the portrayal of women in beer commercials. "Beer does not make your t*** that big," she said.

Gabriel's material was borderline offensive at times, but her forceful attitude and energy helped her win the crowd.

McGurrin was onstage for about 45 minutes, unusually short for a headliner at After Hours.

McGurrin talked about how Canadians name their beer, compared to Americans. He said in the States, they have manly names like Busch, but "we don't have the same kind of logic. We try to come up with a tough name for a beer, we're like . . . Blue! It's not just a beer, it's a color! It's a nice calming soothing color, accents an off-white master bedroom quite lovely. It's an interior decorator's beer! Not quite as tough."

He told the audience about going to the CN Tower in Toronto and standing on the glass floor. "My mother refused to stand on it because she was wearing a skirt," he said.

Johnny Gardhouse and Andrew Grose, of Edmonton, were featured on March 18 in a show that got a little out of control.

Gardhouse started off talking with a few audience members. He then launched into a bit about going to the Ministry of Transportation, retaking the driving test under a fake name, and freaking out the tester by telling him the two are going to Florida.

He told of a cocky American he encountered who bragged about the quality of his country's pot. Gardhouse said, in Canada "our pot wins gold medals."

Gardhouse then touched on a popular political issue. "Clinton's in trouble for, uh, what do we call it in Canada . . . f***in' everything."

Even though Gardhouse's material was well-received, the audience remained unusually laid-back during most of his set. At one point, he paused and asked "You guys want to get a pizza or something?"

Edmonton's Andrew Grose began his set by talking about his last experience at After Hours earlier in the year. Apparently members of the audience had bought him so many drinks he could barely get his opening bit delivered.

As Grose was telling his story, After Hours manager Dave Rapelje went onstage with a huge hurricane glass of beer for him, which he reluctantly downed.

About halfway through Grose's set, Gardhouse returned to the stage with a pitcher of beer and a funnel.

"There's no point in doing comedy when drinking will get you a round of applause," Grose said, but proved he could handle both.

Despite having a few litres of beer in his system, his delivery didn't suffer much and he was still able to hold the crowd. He talked mostly about his wife and relationships, and most of the audience seemed to relate when they weren't chanting "Chug! Chug! Chug!"

Johnny Gardhouse works the After Hours crowd. He will be the emcee at the Year-End Bash at Big Buck's on April 16.
Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Leo to have good week

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

ARIES (March 21to April 19) — You'll be in a great mood this week, so get to know a friend better or say "hi" to the one you're crushin' on. It'll pay off in the long run.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) — So many parties and not enough time, but don't wear yourself thin because you have a tough week ahead. Eat right and get plenty of rest. You'll need it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) — You'll be very talkative this week, but watch out because someone is going to ask you just how you feel about him or her. Think before you answer. Good luck comes around the end of the week.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) — You'll develop a take-charge attitude and you'll finally get what you've been dreaming about. Treat yourself to a night on the town with friends. You'll have a blast.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) — Everything will go your way and you'll be totally psyched. Your popularity will soar and your self-confidence will receive a major boost. You and a new cutie will be inseparable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) — Old friends are coming back into your life, but be careful — they have a favor to ask. Think it through before you answer. Arrange a romantic dinner for your sweetheart. It's long overdue.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — Lately you've been wearing your heart on your sleeve and have been looking for love. No need to look any further. That special someone is right under your nose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) — You'll finally go public with a big secret. Don't worry if it's not the reaction you were hoping for. Time will change that. Cancer plays an important role in your life this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — Good news gets you out of a rut. A hottie from school will track you down, so give that person a chance. Everyone will turn to you for advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan.19) — Being broke will bum you out, so start saving money. A friend will ask you to lie for her. Follow your Capricorn instinct and do what's right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb.18) — Your imagination has been running wild. Better put it in check before it gets you in serious trouble. People love you because you are entertaining and outgoing.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) — You won't be able to stop daydreaming about a past lover. It's time to move on and focus on something new. Your thoughtfulness will be put to good use.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

What's Happening

Concert listings for the Niagara, Hamilton, and Buffalo areas

•**The Skydiggers** play a show at McMaster University in Hamilton on April 4. Call McMaster programming at 525-9140 ext. 24114.

•**Noise Therapy** will be at The Vault in St. Catharines on April 4. Call 688-8988.

•**Sarah McLachlan** plays the Marine Midland Arena in Buffalo on April 4, and the arena at the War Memorial in Rochester on April 5. Call (716) 821-9150.

•Juno winner **Valdy** will appear at the Roselawn Complex in Port Colborne April 5. For information call 834-0833.

•**Holly Cole** will appear at Hamilton Place April 9, with special guest Andi Duncan. Call Ticketmaster at 645-5000.

•**Paul James** is holding his CD Release Party at The Vault on April 9. Call 688-8988.

•**Creed** will be at the Funhouse in Buffalo April 11. Call (716) 821-9150.

Bowling balls and bad trips

By MIKE EARWICKER
Staff Writer

The Big Lebowski is a big waste of time.

Off-the-wall characters and a promising plotline should equal an entertaining movie, but ***The Big Lebowski*** just doesn't measure up.

Adding to a list of film credits, including *Blood Simple*, *Raising Arizona*, and *The Hudsucker Proxy*, the Coen brothers return to their original element after last year's critically acclaimed *Fargo*.

The Stranger (Sam Elliot) narrates the story of a man who, like a tumbleweed, rolls through life without any purpose, a "hero" known as Jeff "The Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges).

Lebowski, an unemployed, dope-smoking, White Russian-drinking bowler, seems a most unlikely candidate to drop off a ransom in a kidnapping scheme.

His well-meaning and overzealous friend, Walter (John Goodman), entraps the unwilling hero in a scam involving porn producers, eccentric artists, German nihilists and a disabled millionaire.

All these elements are strung together in a series of coincidences that barely keeps the plot rolling and forces the audience's suspension of belief.

In true "Forrest Gump" style, "The Dude" stumbles from one adventure to the next. He's the hapless victim trying to preserve his "dudeness."

The wacky characters played by Steve Buscemi, Julianne Moore and John Turturro make attempts to add interest to the plot. The film remains full of meaningless conversations and pointless flashbacks to the 1970s that make up the bulk of the plot.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, the film's only saving grace is The Stranger, a sasaparilla-drinking cowboy, who doesn't quite fit into the plot — except he is the narrator.

In the film our "hero" goes full circle and ends up with nothing, and so does the audience.

The Big Lebowski takes us on a journey of a seemingly complex blend of philosophical and theoretical concepts that ends up just being a bad trip. **D+**

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Kittens return, roaring

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

Simplicity never sounded so good.

Kittens are a three-piece band from Winnipeg, Man. Their clever manipulation of repetition makes their honest heavy songs sound complicated.

Upon first listen, someone not used to their music might dismiss them as just a noise band. This is a mistake.

Bazooka and the Hustler is a sort of departure from Kittens' first two CDs. **Bazooka and the Hustler** has many country tinges to it, because singer/guitarist Pony is influenced by country music. However, the CD is not country. It is pure heavy music.

The lyrics on **Bazooka and the Hustler** read as if they were psycho-cowboy poetry. In the song *Orca*, Pony screams, "The air conditioner is broken. A girl scouted a whirlpool. Polipo hydro-cub. Gunnar got a soaker. Dunk." These are all the lyrics for this song.

This CD is easily one of my all-time favorites, but the CD is not for everyone. In fact, many people I know hate it.

Canada is not known for its loud music, so all that flat land in Manitoba must have really freaked these Kittens out.

Machine Head delivers an all-out attack

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Since it exploded onto the heavy metal scene in early 1994 with its debut release **Burn My Eyes** (BME), Machine Head has turned many listeners on to its amazing low-tuned, grinding sound.

Its second release, **The More Things Change,** continues where BME left off.

Machine Head's love for heavy riffs and high-pitched harmonics is evident on its sophomore effort, giving the listener the reality of being in the crowd at a Machine Head concert, without the kicks and elbows.

The album starts off with two severe blows to the head banger's face with *Ten Ton Hammer,* and *Take My Scars.* These are sure to be favorites with their up-beat tempo and all-out assault on your ears.

The band's heavy sound doesn't need to be fast, as shown with the slow, sludgy sounds of *Violate* and *Down to None.* The band's rhythm section of Adam Duce, bass, and Dave McClain, drums, lock in on this album as does lead guitar player Logan Madder.

Singer Robb Flynn is emerging as one of Metal's premier front men with his ability to reach an amazing low growl and add melody to songs with some actual singing.

The bottom line is if you liked the first album, you're in for more of the same, but if you're a fan of metal and searching for something new, your search ends here.

I'm giving it eight out of 10.

New Pearl Jam brings back the old sound

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

The Seattle sound is alive and well, and we are assured of this as Pearl Jam released its fifth CD, **Yield,** in early February.

Even though the "grunge" movement has apparently died with the loss of Nirvana and Soundgarden and the probable end of Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam is still going strong with the arrival of this album.

After an amazing debut album (**Ten**) and a sophomore effort that broke records for sales (Vs), the band released a pair of lack-lustre albums in **Vitalogy** and **No Code**. Pearl Jam wanted to return with a boom and has done so.

Although at first listen **Yield** does sound a bit similar to **No Code**, the songs are better and have a lot more of the old feel. The album kicks off with a fast-paced, hard-rock tune called *Brain of J,* which is in the spirit of the hard-rocking Pearl Jam.

The first single off the album, *Given to Fly,* shows off the remarkable voice of lead singer Eddie Vedder, and is bound to be a hit for Pearl Jam fans with its singable chorus and great feel.

Do the Evolution and *Pilate* are two great songs that show Pearl Jam is still capable of being a hard-rock band.

A lot of **Yield** is more of the mellow-sounding rock fans heard on **No Code**, but the songs are better written this time and show the band has learned from its mistakes on **No Code** and **Vitalogy**.

Pearl Jam continues to put out great music and seems to reinvent itself on each album. Although the band probably won't be gaining any new fans with **Yield**, if you're a Pearl Jam fan, this album is worth getting.

I'm giving it 7 1/2 out of 10.

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e. Submit no more than three course-related projects from the current school year that demonstrate a variety of skills and expertise in their area of study. Published and in-class projects will be given equal consideration
f. Winning candidates will prepare an essay or article regarding the benefits to their academic career of participation in this OCNA Foundation project, suitable for publishing in their college or community newspapers and OCNA publications.

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Books

Little Bill's books, perfect for children

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

The first thing that attracted me to this book was Bill Cosby. I enjoy his comedy and television shows, so I was looking forward to reading his series of children's books.

The second appeal was the similarities to other children's books, such as the bright primary colors and the moral lesson of the story.

In *The Treasure Hunt*, Little Bill looks for his own special treasure in his bedroom. What he finds is a loving great-grandmother and how much he loves to tell stories, with her encouragement.

I think Little Bill was looking for a sense of identity in his own house. His dad has a record collection, his mom has her silver platter and his brother has his baseball cards. Little Bill wants something of his own.

The things I found different from other books were the unique drawings by Varnette P. Honeywood. They were bold in color and beautiful in style.

At the beginning of this book there is a letter to parents from Alvin Poussaint, a clinical professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School and Judge Baker Children's Centre in Boston, Mass.

The letter encourages parents to let their children discover their own hobbies and interests. This is a wonderful idea. It lets parents know the author cared to get advice and guidance from a child expert.

The book is recommended for children ages six to 10. The language is not hard and children should not have problems reading and understanding this book. It is published by Scholastic Inc. This book and series were an Oprah Book Club book. The club recommends books that Oprah Winfrey thinks are worth reading.

I would recommend *The Treasure Hunt* from the Little Bill series to any parent, relative or friend of a child. It is a refreshing change from the typical children's book.

Must have for all collectors

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

It's a book about the collecting craze that's sweeping North America.

The Beanie Baby Handbook, by Les and Sue Fox, is described as the "fun and fact-filled unofficial handbook" of Ty Incorporated's Original Beanie Babies.

The book contains games and quizzes about the plush, slightly under-stuffed, bean-filled animals, along with a story on how these toys were created and exactly how and why the beanies have become a financial sensation.

The authors have included a personal account about why they started collecting. It began with their daughter Jamie "just wanting one" then turning obsessive to find the entire family. Her collection includes over 100 animals and insects and one ghost.

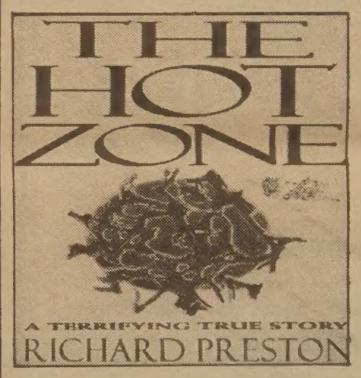
Most of the 128-page guide is filled with vivid pictures of the beanies in Fox's Collection. Each beanie has its own page, which includes a photograph and biographical information. Included are the total number of that beanie made, its birthday, the year — if any — it was retired, and the number estimated that will "survive" by the year 2007.

Also provided are the issue price (for each it's $5 American), 1997 value and the estimated value in 2007. The beanies are either recommended, or highly recommended, by the authors. Of special interest are hunting tips for each beanie, including where collectors are likely to find them and what might make that certain one rare and therefore more valuable.

As an owner of 17 Beanie Babies, I was given this book for my birthday and I couldn't have asked for a better gift. This guide was useful in evaluating the value of the ones I own and in deciding which ones to purchase next.

The book's only drawback is that Ty Inc. doesn't endorse it. Nonetheless, the book is valuable to collectors of all ages and levels.

Captivating look into real-life crisis



By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

It starts with a headache that just won't quit.

Your eyes turn red and your nose bleeds uncontrollably. Within a few days your face loses all expression as the virus destroys the connective tissue under your skin.

Your intestines fill with blood and your veins become like overcooked noodles.

Finally your body crashes and bleeds from every opening. The pool of blood surrounding your body is full of the virus searching for its next victim.

The Hot Zone, a novel by Richard Preston, is a terrifying true story of the most devastating virus known to man — Ebola.

Preston pulls you in with his gruesome description of this microscopic monster's appetite for the human race.

He takes you on a trip from a remote jungle in central Africa to a highly populated suburb on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. It's here in November 1989 where the Ebola virus made its American debut.

A quarantine facility in the suburban community of Reston, Va., is the temporary home for monkeys being imported to the U.S. via the Philippines.

A sudden rash of monkey deaths in one of the rooms troubles the staff of the facility. Soon monkeys elsewhere in the building begin to die.

Samples of the dead monkeys are sent to the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Ditrick, in Frederick, Md.

It is here where Tom Giesbert, an intern, discovers the deadly truth — Ebola has entered the U.S.

The army goes into action launching a preemptive strike before the virus can claim a human life. What begins is a battle for humanity.

Preston has done an amazing job of portraying this horrifying tale of what is perhaps the most lethal threat to our species.

The Hot Zone is 411 pages of fascinating reading, published originally in hardcover by Random House, Inc. in 1994 and later in paperback by Doubleday.

It will make you wonder if we are really the species on top of the food chain?

Chilling, suspenseful read

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Richard Bachman, better known as Stephen King, has a novel so chilling you won't want to put it down.

The Regulators is 484 pages of pure suspense.

It began in July 1996, when a red van appeared in Wentworth, Ohio.

The van, unlike any seen before, spewed gunfire as it drove down quiet Poplar Street.

The plot unravels as the first character is shot on the street.

One van turns into several. Poplar Street turns into a mass shooting ground.

The first character's death sets the mood. Many more deaths follow, including that of a dog.

People on both sides of the street are scared and shocked, taking shelter in one house. Then the gunfire ceases for a short period of time.

The book is filled with evil and has so much suspense you won't put it down.

The ending? You'll have to read it.

You never know when *The Regulators* will appear.

Last edition of Niagara News will be April 17

Novel questions our knowledge of unexplored frontier

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Step aside, *Jurassic Park*. Here comes something even more terrifying.

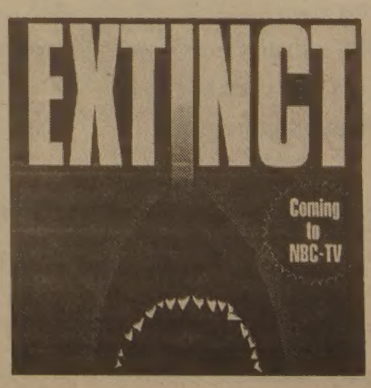
It can measure anywhere from nine metres to 62 metres in length, with a gaping set of jaws that could swallow any human whole. It was the largest fish to ever live in the world's oceans.

Extinct, a novel by Charles Wilson, questions our knowledge of the last unexplored frontier — the sea.

The terror begins along the Mississippi gulf coast with six-year-old Paul Haines watching as two older boys dive into a coastal river and never come up.

The next day, off the coast of Florida, a tooth is discovered near a sunken speed boat by Coast Guard divers. The only problem is the tooth belongs to a shark thought to have been extinct for five million years — the giant megalodon.

Only one man knows where this monster came from and why. He is Admiral Vandiver. His relentless



obsession with this creature will ultimately lead him to Mississippi where Alan Freeman, a marine biologist, continues to pursue what he believes is an oversized Great White Shark that has wandered into the shallows of the Mississippi River system.

Wilson has combined fiction with actual events to increase the sense of reality readers can enjoy.

The plot moves at a good pace keeping the reader interested. Unlike some authors, Wilson does not weigh the reader down with too many facts and scientific explanations. Instead he concentrates on the characters bringing them to life on the page.

The book, at 310 pages in length, is published by St. Martin's Paperbacks.

Extinct is an enjoyable read, and is to be made into a NBC television movie at some time in the near future.

Graduation ceremonies set for June 8, 9, 10, 11

Spring graduation ceremonies for Niagara College students are just around the corner.

Four dates have been chosen for graduation ceremonies at Centennial Secondary School in Welland.

The dates include Monday, June 8, Tuesday, June 9, Wednesday, June 10 and Thursday, June 11.

Students in Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Business, Continuing Education, Hospitality and Tourism, Integrated Manufacturing and Customized Training and some programs in the Information and Computer Technology will have their graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Those programs include the following: Environment, Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Environment Technician — Water, Horticultural Technician (Co-op), Ecosystems Restoration (post-graduate), Environmental Management (post-graduate), Environmental Assessment (post-graduate), Geographic Information Systems (post-graduate), Culinary Skills, Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op), Electrical Engineering Technician, Electronics Engineering Technician, Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op), Electrical Engineering Technology —Power Systems (Co-op), Electronics Engineering Technology (Co-op) and Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op).

Students from Health and Community Studies will have their ceremonies on Tuesday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Those programs include the following: Correctional Worker, Early Childhood Education, Educational Resources and Special Needs, Human Relations, Law and Security Administration, Recreation and Leisure Services, Social Service Worker and Child and Youth Worker.

Students in Access and Student Success and Business and Entrepreneurship will have their ceremonies on Wednesday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Those programs include the following: College Vocational, College Vocational — Native, General Arts and Science, General College — Health Sciences Preparatory Option, Social Service Worker — Native, Call Centre Management and Business — Accounting, Business — Accounting (Co-op), Business — Retail Management, Business — Sales, Legal Assistant (Co-op), Business Administration — Accounting, Business Administration-Accounting (Co-op), Business Administration — Human Resources (Co-op), Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op), and Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op).

Students in Nursing Studies, Health and Community Studies and Information and Computer Technology will have their graduation ceremonies on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Those programs include the following: Call Centre Management, Business — Accounting, Business — Accounting (Co-op), Business — Retail Management, Business — Sales, Legal Assistant (Co-op), Office Administration — Executive (Co-op), Business Administration —Accounting, Business Administration — Accounting (Co-op), Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op), Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op), International Trade (post-diploma), Nursing, Paramedic, Pharmacy Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Computer Programmer, Journalism — Print, Arts and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production, Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film, Computer Programmer/Analyst, Computer Network Operations (post-graduate), Interactive Multimedia (post-graduate) and Public Relations (post-diploma).

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New Hall of Fame welcomes six

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

After 30 years of athletic competitions, Niagara College has a Sports Hall of Fame.

Six former athletes and coaches were inducted into the Niagara Knights' Hall of Fame on March 31 at the athletic banquet.

Among the inductees were Peter Rylander, Ed Zanetti, Ed Luciow, Lois Lamb, Tom Peat and Mark Nelson.

Luciow began his collegiate career at Niagara College in 1968. A centre on the men's basketball team, his dedication to athletics set the standard for players who followed.

He was the men's basketball team's Most Valuable Player (MVP) for three consecutive years from 1969-70 to 1971-72, while leading the team to division titles in 1968 and 1970. In 1970-71, he was named Niagara College male athlete of the year.

"I think it's great," says Luciow. "It's unbelievable. It's nice to come back all these years later. I look around, it brings back old memories of good times."

Rylander began his career at the college in 1969 as the athletic assistant. In 1970, he was promoted to co-ordinator of athletics. In his 27 years at Niagara, the Knights won 19 Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) championships. In his final three years at the college, he coached the touch football team to three consecutive championships from 1993 to 1995.

Hall of Fame inductee Mark Nelson gives his acceptance speech at the Niagara College athletic banquet. Photo by Lee Whitehead

"I really appreciate to have been nominated and to have received this honor," he says.

Madden was the original women's leader at Niagara. She led a group of young women to the Student Administrative Council in 1968 and demanded, and got, equal funding for women's intercollegiate activities. She led the women's basketball and volleyball teams to three championships. She was voted the MVP of the basketball team in 1969-70.

Nelson began his four-year college career in 1983. He and teammate Peat were the first Niagara athletes to win three consecutive national badminton titles from 1984-87.

Nelson's other accomplishments include four OCAA and West Regional titles, three co-athlete of the year awards, three-time All-Canadian, OCAA Athlete of the Week, Niagara College Award of Excellence, Western Ontario men's single and doubles champion, Ontario Federation of Secondary School Athletics (OFSSA) and two OCAA West Regional tennis titles.

Peat began his career in 1983. His accomplishments include four OCAA and West Regional titles, one Western Ontario Junior Championship, three Eastern U.S. junior doubles titles and one OFSSA Doubles Championships.

He was also a three-time co-athlete of the year, three-time All-Canadian, OCAA Athlete of the Week and received the Niagara College Award of Excellence.

"It was an honor to be inducted," says Peat. "The best time of my life was here at Niagara College. I had a great time."

Zanetti began his career at Niagara as a member of the School of Business faculty in 1968. That year he volunteered to assist athletics and helped establish the athletic program.

He was the first hockey coach and eventually became the play-by-play announcer for college hockey games on the local cable channel.

The Sales and Marketing Club, with Zanetti as faculty adviser, promoted college athletic programs in the community for many years. He was a respected member of the School of Business faculty for 29 years.

"I feel very honored and privileged to have been inducted," he says. "It was a surprise. My involvement was for two or three years only. We started and built the foundation, the full-time athletic people came on and they took it from there. It was fun and exciting and I enjoyed it very much."

In the past 30 years, 6,500 athletes have worn the uniform of the Niagara Knights. More than 40 coaches and many volunteers guided these student athletes. They assisted the athletic department in providing these programs.

Niagara varsity athletes honored

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Niagara College's top varsity athletes were honored for their efforts at this year's athletic awards banquet on March 31.

The 29th annual banquet was held in the Black Walnut building at the Welland campus.

Awards were presented for most valuable player on each varsity team, male and female freshman athletes of the year, and male and female athletes of the year.

Mike Harris, a student in the Interactive Multimedia (post-graduate) program, was named male athlete of the year for basketball.

It was the second time the Niagara Falls resident was chosen for the honor.

This year he finished second in team scoring and was fourth in the West Division, averaging 18.4 points per game (PPG). He started at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) all-star game, was selected as OCAA West Division league all-star and was named tournament all-star at the George Brown College Invitational in Toronto.

Harris said the win was "a shock."

"There's a lot of outstanding athletes this year," he said. "I'm happy, but kind of sad because there were other athletes who were more deserving this year."

Female athlete of the year was Laura Chatterton, 23, from the women's volleyball team. Chatterton, of St. Catharines, is a Human Relations program graduate enrolled in the Special Event Management (post-graduate) program.

She has been with the team for four years, and was the team's most valuable player (MVP) for the last two years. She finished second in team scoring and fifth in the West Division. She accumulated 166 offensive points and was selected as OCAA West Division league all-star.

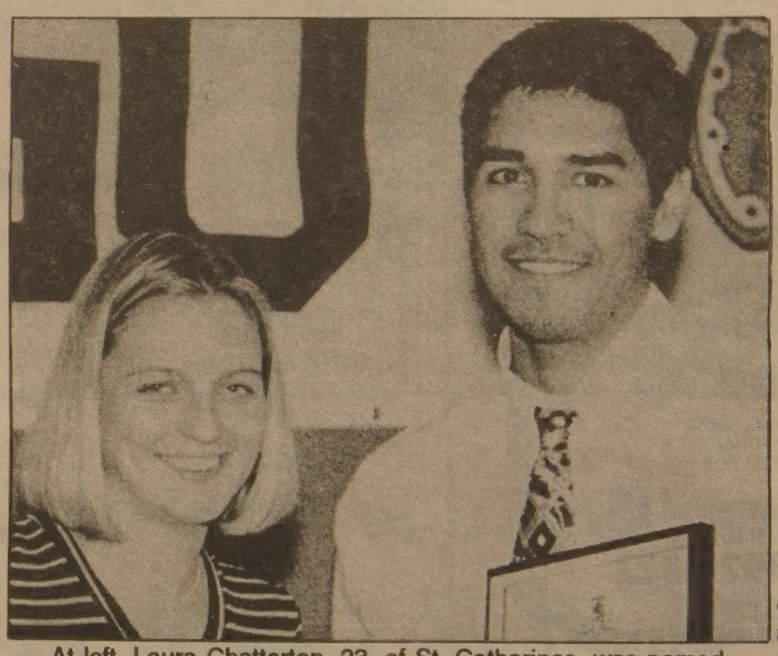
She credited her win to her coach and team.

"I couldn't have done any of this without my team," she said. "My team is great this year, and that's pretty much the bottom line."

Michael George, 20, of Rexdale, and Cameron Jacobs, 22, of Brampton, were chosen as male freshmen athletes of the year.

George, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, was the top scorer on the men's basketball team.

He was the second-highest scorer in the West Division and fourth in Ontario, with 21.2 PPG and a total of 233 points.



At left, Laura Chatterton, 23, of St. Catharines, was named female athlete of the year while Mike Harris, 22, of Niagara Falls was named male athlete of the year. Photo by Lee Whitehead

He was chosen for the annual OCAA all-star game, selected as OCAA West Division league all-star and named to the all-star team at the St. Lawrence College Invitational in Brockville.

Jacobs, a first-year General Arts and Science program student, won for his efforts as a setter on the men's volleyball team. He is one of the top collegiate players in the OCAA, and led his team to compete for a divisional title.

Liana Collins, 21, a first-year Recreation Leadership program student, was named female freshman athlete of the year for her contribution to the women's volleyball team.

She led the team in scoring with 176 points, was fourth in the West Division and seventh in the OCAA. She was named OCAA West Division league all-star.

These are the 1997-98 winners:

- Mike Harris — men's basketball
- Andrea Findall — women's basketball
- Paul Clark — men's volleyball
- Kim Clifford — women's volleyball
- Vince Bagnulo — touch football
- Elana Sykes — women's indoor soccer
- Peter Vanvakaris — men's indoor soccer
- Kevin Harding — curling
- Jay Jewett — curling team

Ray Sarkis, the college's assistant of athletics and recreation, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Bill Raynor, head men's basketball coach from Holy Cross College in Worchester, Mass., was the featured speaker.

He read a poem entitled *Victory* and told a story about seeing Michael Jordan, of the Chicago Bulls, alone at Chicago Stadium practicing basketball jump shots.

He captivated the audience with his inspirational speech, which earned him a standing ovation.

Manager ensures team functions smoothly

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Jessica Aloian, 20, of St. Catharines, says she enjoyed her first year as manager of Niagara College's women's basketball team.

The General Arts and Science program student has completed her first year as the team's manager.

Ray Sarkis, the college's assistant athletic director, approached Aloian as she was watching her longtime friend Andrea Flindall, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, practice. He asked her if she wanted to fill the position of being the team's manager.

"I asked him what my duties would include, and after some thought, I accepted," said Aloian, adding she thought it would be an asset to her resume, give her "experience" and help her to "meet new people."

Her tasks included getting the equipment out before practices and games, filling the water bottles, having a first-aid kit at each game, washing the uniforms and attending every practice and game.

Aloian said she liked her role in helping the team because she got to see how "the team progresses throughout the season."

She was paid $700 for the year, $350 each semester.

The women's team also organizes off-the-court activities such as Christmas parties and pot luck dinners.

"This is to let the girls get to know one another socially and get comfortable with each other so they will play as a team," said Aloian, adding the late hours and travelling "in a van with a group of people" are the downfalls of the position.

In December, Aloian travelled to Michigan for a series of games. "We thought we were beat out, so we started to pack. Then we were told that night that we were playing in the morning. I had to take the uniforms and wash them in a bath tub with soap."

Aloian then had to leave the uniforms hanging in the washroom "hoping they would dry by game time."

Aloian said the coaches "worked very hard to get where they are today."

The coaches did criticize the team "for a wrong play or bad defense," but only during games, never during a practice.

The girls were given positive reinforcement as well, she said, adding the team was praised for making "foul shots, good plays, and smart shots."

As for next season, Aloian said she "may return," depending on her "workload."

Memorable moments in years of coaching

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Athletics is his life.

Ray Sarkis has been the assistant director of varsity athletics at Niagara College for two years.

Sarkis, 41, who lives with his wife Marilyn and their two daughters in Cooks Mills, a village on the outskirts of Welland, says he has been involved in athletics his entire life.

"I played volleyball for Niagara College," he says. "I played club volleyball throughout my high school and post-high school era. I also played hardball and fastball."

Sarkis attended Niagara College and was enrolled in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. He says he enjoyed it, but did not finish.

"I was looking at going into sports, covering sports on television or radio, but that didn't pan out."

After college, Sarkis says he spent almost 15 years working for the college in the shipping and receiving department, but stayed with sports in coaching capacities. He says he coached high school sports and minor baseball for 12 years before taking over the men's volleyball program at Niagara.

"While coaching, I also educated myself through the Canadian Coaching Certification Program. I feel that's where I got my knowledge in education as far as running a department with varsity programs."

Sarkis spent time as the assistant to the co-ordinator of recreation and varsity athletics before becoming assistant director of varsity athletics. He says it was during this time he experienced his two most memorable athletic moments.

In 1994-95 he was the head coach of the men's volleyball team.

"The Ontario College Athletic Association men's volleyball became one division and we immediately made it to the playoffs."

"That was a big thrill for me and the team I coached at the time, because previous to that, the (volleyball) program was looked down on."

Sarkis says the other memorable moment occurred the same year when the men's volleyball team was recognized as one of the top teams in the country.

"We were seeded No. 9 and that's the best seeding we've ever had. It was the first time that any program here had been recognized."

Sarkis says he enjoys working at Niagara College but he finds it difficult to please everybody when working with a small budget.

"We are continually getting people in here asking for different programs and unfortunately we have to turn them away."

Sarkis says when his retirement comes, he hopes it will be Niagara he retires from, not some other place.

"I enjoy very much working with the students. I love sports. That's what I've done all my life, and having the opportunity to work directly with these student-athletes is a pleasure."

Ray Sarkis, 41, of Cooks Mills, has been the assistant director of varsity athletics for two years.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

No funding for college hockey

By JASON ATLEY
Staff Writer

After 28 years hockey is gone.

Niagara College had a rich history of playing hockey that ended in 1995.

Every Saturday night was hockey night in Welland. Two hundred people would turn out to watch the Niagara Knights do battle on the ice for their school.

Then, as the 1994/95 season was coming to an end with the Knights winning the Ontario College's Athletic Association silver medal, it was announced the hockey program was being cut for financial reasons.

The team approached the Student Administrative Council and the president of the college during the hockey season to see about other funding choices.

The team was granted a stay of execution until Christmas 1994. Fred Bassi, 52, of Welland, a Niagara College coach for 24 years, said the team explored options like sweater advertisement, corporate sponsorship and player contribution as another source of revenue.

"There was nothing done at the time because the team was playing," he said.

Bassi said he needed outside help for fund-raising, but help wasn't available and "the funding to be set up for the future never materialized."

"We really didn't help our own cause. I thought if they (Niagara College) really wanted it (hockey), they would fund it like the other sports."

The funding didn't occur and that was the last season for college hockey.

Ray Sarkis, 41, of Welland, the assistant athletic director, said, "I was utterly disappointed. It (hockey) was the best program we had."

Sarkis said there are benefits to not having a hockey team.

Dropping an expensive program like hockey—that was being run for 22 students—made it possible to start new programs, both varsity and intramural, involving more students.

The same year the college administration decided on scuttling the hockey program, women's basketball and indoor soccer for women and men were added as varsity sports.

Hockey is an expensive program to operate when costs like ice rentals and travel expenses are taken into account. Kingston's St. Lawrence College, Ottawa's Algonquin College, Oakville's Humber College and Barrie's Georgian College have all dropped their hockey programs.

Bassi said, "Money is the key. It's expensive to play in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association."

New sources of funding have been developed by Sarkis and others that didn't exist when there was a hockey team. Billboards in the gym, admission fees to games and corporate sponsorship have all been used to help offset the costs of other sports at the college.

Sarkis said, "To bring hockey back would be impossible unless we dropped three programs or some serious money was raised. If someone donated $1million then we could run the program off the interest."

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LASA student holds on to his dreams

By SONYA DRAGAN
Staff Writer

He says he's got his eyes on his dreams.

Terry Rittwage, 20, of Kingston, a student in the Law and Security Administration (LASA) program, says throughout his years at Niagara College he not only had many good times but also got his diploma.

Rittwage says what he will remember most about his college years are "all the money he spent on alcohol" and living in residence.

"Living in residence was the best experience. I met a lot of different people and had a lot of good times."

Rittwage says when he's done school he'd like to join the navy.

"My father was in the navy and my grandfather was in the army. I just have a lot of respect for anyone who has been in the military."

Rittwage says he knew in January of this year he wanted to join the navy.

"It just came down to it was my last semester of school and it takes a special person to be a cop and I'm not at that maturity level yet."

Rittwage says he chose the LASA program because he wanted to be a cop and "not end up some pencil neck behind a desk."

He says he chose Niagara because "I pulled the name out of a hat."

"I applied to Loyalist College in Belleville, Sir Sandford Fleming in Peterborough, Humber College in Toronto and Niagara College. I put all the names in a hat and pulled out Niagara."

Growing up as the oldest in the family with one younger brother, Rittwage describes it as "different." He says he moved out on his own at 16 because of personality conflicts with his step-parents.

"I wanted to get out on my own and see if I could make it on my own."

Rittwage says if he had it to do over again he wouldn't do anything different.

"I've learned a lot of lessons and matured a lot because of it. It really prepared me to go away to college."

"Determined" is how Rittwage says he'd describe himself.

"I always want to be the best and never give up on anything I do."

Rittwage says he's always known what he's wanted to do with his life.

"I've thought about different things but I've always wanted to be a cop when it came down to it."

He says there have been days when he's had second thoughts about his program, "mostly during exams when the pressure builds up. I don't have second thoughts about the program, but about what I want to do with my life."

Rittwage says his goal in life is to be successful.

"In 20 years from now I want to be able to look in the mirror and say I did the best I could at everything I attempted."

In his spare time, Rittwage says he enjoys working out, playing sports and "drinking beer."

Rittwage's advice for those interested in the LASA program is always keep your eyes on your goals and don't let the teachers scare you.

"Don't change your mind. It will work out eventually."

Rittwage says his philosophy on life is to always do what makes you happy.

"Don't worry about others. The only person's look that matters is the one looking you back in the mirror."

LASA student takes responsibility seriously

By JANET NEWMAN
Staff Writer

A 21-year-old Law and Security Administration (LASA) program student says she is taking her responsibilities seriously.

Brooke Leslie, of Leamington, Ont., is a resident adviser at Niagara College's student residence.

After seeing flyers at the Welland campus about a job at the residence, Leslie went to get an application at the residence counselling office of Derek Wills, resident manager of Campus Living Centre in the Niagara Region.

"I got an interview with Derek right away, and he asked me questions like my age, program, why I thought I would be a good candidate for this position, things like that. I was nervous about it," she says, adding her duties are simple, but important.

"You have to be an easily approachable person who is open and can give good advice. It's our job to keep the hallways peaceful and to keep a safe environment for everyone."

Leslie says she works front desk, and on opening week of the residence in September she had to show the building to people around the neighborhood and to the college staff.

Asked if she liked her job, she says, "Yes, it gives me a chance to get to know a lot of people in residence."

She says it gives her the experience to show authority because she is in the LASA program, where she must deal with different situations she may come across.

Leslie says the only thing she does not like about her job is that people are quick to make assumptions about her and what she stands for.

She would take the job again, but would like things to be more organized and to have more respect from the residents, she says.

"They need to understand my position, and that what I do is on a professional level, not personal."

She says statements were said at the start that didn't end up happening, such as the resident advisers being told they were to be given training, such as CPR, first-aid and self-defense.

"It was pretty unorganized, being a new experience for everyone. A lot didn't happen that they said would, so that was disappointing. Besides that, it's pretty cool."

CRNC SURVEY

CRNC is the campus radio station at Niagara College that is programmed and run by students, for students. CRNC wants to know what you think about us. How are we doing in providing a distraction from the rigors of everyday life? Please take a minute to fill out this survey. Drop it off in the ballot box outside of the CRNC Radio studio beside the library, in the Simcoe building (Welland Campus only). Hey, you might even ***win*** something!

Please circle or write the appropriate answer:

1. What program are you in at school?
2. Are you a girl or a guy?
3. Do you ever listen to CRNC at school? YES NO
4. If no, then why not?

5. We program all types of music: Rank in order, your music preference:
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   ROCK ( ) RAP ( ) ADULT CONTEMPORARY ( )
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6. Would you like to see any other types of music added to the CRNC playlist?
7. Already this year, we have given away tickets to Junkhouse, Blue Rodeo, Spirit of the West and The Philosopher Kings, as well as, a trip for one to Florida. What other types of prizes would you like to see given away?

8. Do you ever listen to CRNC for any of these featured programs?

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Sports	**Concert Calendar**
Weather	**Music Gallery Specials**
The Entertainment File	**Drive Time/Health Specials**
3 Minute Wacky Wild File	**80's Retro Show**
4 Idiots in the Booth	**Bent Metal-The Punk Rock Show**

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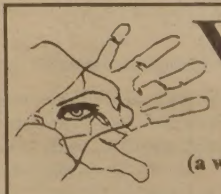

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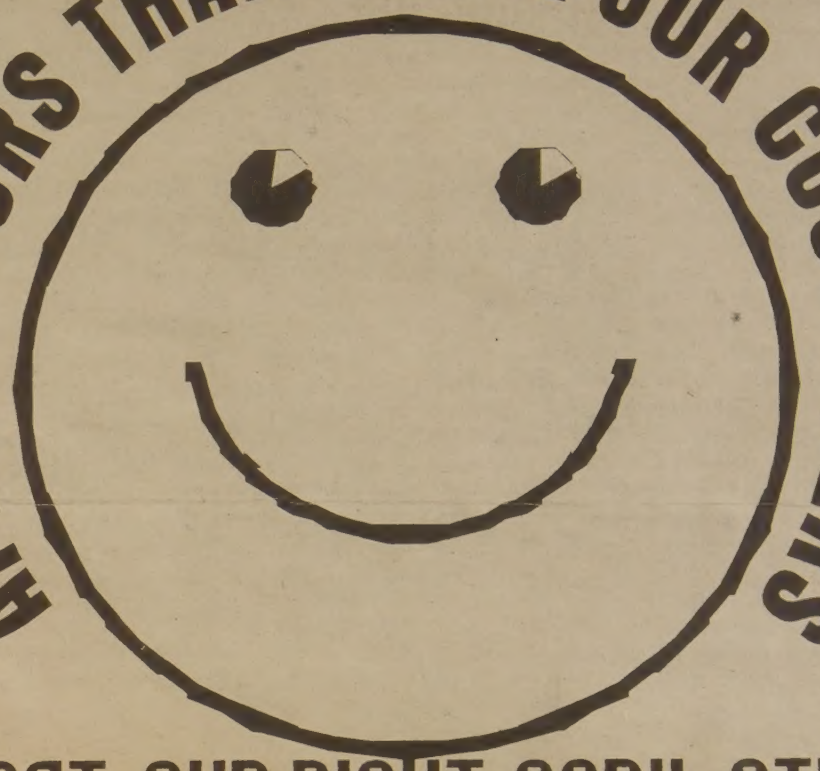

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Open house 'absolutely wonderful'

Plant sale proceeds go back into college

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Two feet of snow and storm warnings weren't enough to deter Niagara College's Horticultural Centre from having its annual open house and plant sale on its 30th anniversary.

The March 21 and March 22 sale at 360 Niagara St., in St. Catharines, did not have much of a turnout on March 21, but things picked up the second day, despite the weather.

The open house and plant sale was sponsored by students and staff to raise money and boost morale.

"The major intent is to give the students a chance to deal with the public and give them a boost," said Tom Ball, organizer of the open house and co-ordinator of the Horticultural Technician (Co-op) and Turf Specialist programs. "It gives them a chance to realize what they've learned. The students can be proud of themselves and we can be proud of them."

Lorraine Braster, of St. Catharines, shows a T-shirt being sold to raise money for the Horticultural Technician program.
Photo by Sean Coffey

Monica Menner, 33, of Niagara Falls, a first-year Horticultural Technician student, manned the cash register.

"It's absolutely wonderful," said Menner. "I'm enjoying it. No outside distractions. We stay focused.

"Everything we sell goes back into the college. We need to raise money to move trees," said Menner.

More than 60 alumni from the class of 1972 turned up from across Canada for the gathering on Saturday, March 21.

Lorraine Braster, 35, of St. Catharines, a 1986 graduate of the Horticultural Technician program, was at the open house for the alumni party and to sell anniversary T-shirts. The proceeds provide funds for the program.

Braster said about $2,000 has been donated to replace outdated equipment. She said she's "excited" for current and future students who will be taking the program at the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I like the way they've altered the program to facilitate higher enrolment," she said. "They've made it easier for people to take specialized courses."

Braster said the new campus was expecting about 2,000 students, but enrolment is at 2,600.

Ball said the company Priva Computer Systems donated a $40,000-climate control system to the new campus and *Ontario Seeds* is donating seeds.

"The students are really enthused about the new greenhouse and that they'll get a chance to put their skills to use around the new campus," he said, adding he hopes the new campus will eventually have a residence for students, but that is still in the planning stage.

Asked if a day-care centre was anticipated, Ball said, "That's something to look into because 25 per cent of the students are mature students. They bring a new dimension to the typical classroom."

Ball said things are looking so well plans for a new wing extending to the nearby Foster Wheeler building are all ready being discussed. The opening of the new Glendale campus is "just Phase 1," said Ball.

Child care centre provides kids with 'stability'

Eversden soothes parents' fears, guilt

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

It's the little people on campus that preoccupy one Niagara College employee.

Each morning 47 children are entrusted to the 14 staff members of the Niagara College Child Care Centre in Welland.

Pat Eversden, manager, provides some "stability."

"Parents actually feel guilty dropping off their children, and it's my job to eliminate that," said Eversden.

Eversden, 43, of Fort Erie, has been in the child care field since graduating from Niagara College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in 1976.

Besides working full time at the Welland campus, she said, she enjoys her part-time position as a certified instructor at Fulton's Fitness in Fort Erie. YMCA-certified, Eversden was employed at Fulton's in 1986.

Niagara's Child Care Centre has been operating since 1967. Eversden became manager in 1990 and is planning to celebrate the centre's second anniversary in the new location after moving from the Annex building in 1995.

Before coming to Niagara, Eversden worked for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, where she managed child-care centres in Fort Erie and St. Catharines from 1976 to 1990. She taught part-time ECE courses, multiculturalism courses and classes for three to 12-year-old children and did other assignments until she took a break and admitted to herself that it was "a lot of work."

"I have settled down, I think," laughed Eversden, as the phones begin to ring and visitors pop in to ask for a moment of her time.

Eversden is an executive member of the Association of Early Childhood Educators, which adds to the other responsibilities she has as manager of the campus Child Care Centre.

Included in her duties are parent orientations, greeting parents in the morning and sending their children off at night. She oversees the new Parent Resource Library and is the chair for the Parent Advisory Group, which holds monthly meetings for parents.

Her job as a manager is to generally "facilitate things for children as well as the parents."

As Eversden looks to the future, she said she worries children will be "at risk."

No matter how organized she is, she still "brings work home" with her. She tries to address her "uneasy thoughts of each needing child" she meets.

She said she believes through parades, public awareness and fundraisers she can prove her point that "politicians need to know that without subsidies, we could not operate."

Eversden said she believes a little more space and a continuation of funding, she can show Welland the centre is "not only for the college, but the community as well."

LRC worker has spent half her life at Niagara

'Passion' for books fulfilled

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Imagine working at one place for half your life.

Helen Kovacs, 58, of Thorold, has worked in the Audio-visual Services Department of Niagara College's Welland campus Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for 29 years.

She started at the college in the summer of 1969 when audio services were separate from the LRC. Within the next six years the LRC expanded, incorporating the audio department.

Kovacs' title is library assistant.

She helps the head librarian with administrative paperwork and services the circulation desk.

"I really enjoy my job. I love books and education. There have been big changes with technology. Everything has gotten so technical."

Before coming to the college, she worked for the Municipal Public Utilities Department in Delhi, Ont., for the federal government in Ottawa, and for Ontario Hydro in Welland. Having worked for all three levels of government, she said her only problem has been with the regional level.

"The Region (Niagara) hasn't had much influence. They're just draining us of our money."

Kovacs, married at 18 to her husband Andrew, has three children. She said two of her children graduated from Niagara, and her son is in France continuing his education. She said she's been to France once and "hopes" to go back someday to visit him.

"I wouldn't get married now at 18. It's different. Things have changed."

"There are so many things to do, and with today's standards, 18 is a young age," said Kovacs. She'll have been married for 40 years this summer.

Besides raising a family, Kovacs is a member of the Hungarian Folk Dance Association in Welland. "It was started eight years ago and is the only one of its nature in North America."

Kovacs said she's actively involved in the community. She was on the Welland Heritage Council for 20 years and was president for 10. She has served on the church board and as a secretary of her Hungarian church for several years.

She said she likes watching figure skating and reading in her spare time.

"I've been a member of a book club since I was 15. My husband and I have books all over the house."

She said she "loves the written word" and has a "passion" for books.

"I take a book everywhere."

Kovacs, which means "Smith" in Hungarian, said she has a "great respect and love for books."

"I can't go to bed with a television, but I can with a good book."